

7 The Jerusalem Post

WEATHER

Haifa 12-19
Tel Aviv 12-19
Jerusalem 12-19
Beersheva 10-19
Dead Sea 10-19

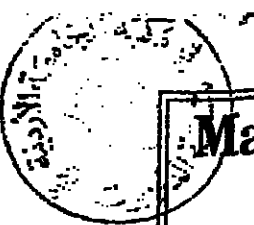
Day and tomorrow: Partly cloudy with temperatures in the 20s. Wind: light to moderate.

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8-page pullout

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Arts & Entertainment, Page 7

NFL Draft roundup

World of Sport

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Yifat Kastiel, 23, weeps at the funeral in Holon Sunday of her twin sister Liat, killed together with Hagit Zavitzy by terrorists in Wadi Kelt last week. Zavitzy will be buried in Kfar Adumim today. (Reuters)

Police seek public's help in Wadi Kelt terrorist probe

By BAROQUE DUKAKITCH

Police are asking the public's assistance in their investigation of the murders of Hagit Zavitzy and Liat Kastiel, both 23, whose bodies were found with multiple stab wounds in Wadi Kelt on Friday afternoon. Investigators ask the driver who took Kastiel and Zavitzy from the Dead Sea area to Kfar Adumim on Thursday to come forward.

According to Judea and Samaria Police spokesman Opher Sivan, shortly after their arrival at Kfar Adumim at about noon, the women decided to hike to Wadi Kelt. Latest reports conflict initial details first published after the women's bodies were discovered, said Sivan.

"It appears the women attended a concert at the Dead Sea on Wednesday night and stayed there the whole night," he said.

Sivan stressed that the investigation is continuing, based mainly on intelligence reports, although some people have been held for questioning.

"Those questioned are not necessarily Beduin and Arabs who live near Wadi Kelt," he said.

He added that the headquarters set up nearby the murder scene has been dismantled and police are no longer combing the area for clues.

The partially clothed bodies of Kastiel and Zavitzy were discovered lying face down in water at the bottom of the wadi some 80 meters apart.

Some of their personal belongings were missing, which led police to believe that the terrorists had taken them as proof they had carried out the murders.

Liat Kastiel was laid to rest on Sunday morning in Holon, where hundreds attended the funeral.

Her older sister, Dolly, tears running down her face and in a choked voice, spoke on behalf of the family.

"Liat, my dear sister, here I stand before you. My child, whose name is known now in Israel and throughout the world. You were a child who always distanced yourself from the restraints in this world ... The Lord only takes those who are made of something special, as you were."

"If you were able to speak with the human animals before they murdered you, you would have told them that there is a place for everyone on this Earth to live together. The knife in their hands would have turned into an olive branch."

Hagit Zavitzy is to be buried this morning in the cemetery at Kfar Adumim. OC Central Command Maj.-Gen. Uzi Dayan paid a condolence call on the family on Sunday and updated them on the investigation.

On Sunday, President Ezer Weizman said in Haifa that, "The double murder in Wadi Kelt is a serious indication that we are still in a security situation that is not simple."

Weizman expressed hope for cooperation with the Palestinian Authority, "so that the miscreants will be caught - and I'm not sure it'll be so easy."

PA Chairman Yasser Arafat on Sunday also condemned the Wadi Kelt murders.

"This is a barbaric, shameful, unethical act. Whoever did it must be ashamed and it is completely unacceptable by any side," Arafat told Reuters.

He said in Jericho that Israeli and Palestinian security officers had met on Saturday to discuss the issue, and stressed the Palestinians are coordinating with Israel in the murder investigation.

Likud MK Uzi Landau, head of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, called on the government yesterday to respond to the two murders by constructing 1,000 housing units in Ma'aleh Adumim and Mishor Adumim.

The PLO continues to encourage terror and murder, in the hope of deterring the continuation of settlement expansion and construction on Har Homa, he said in a statement.

Levy, Albright to meet Friday

By MICHAL YUDELMAN, HILIEL KUTTLER, and news agencies

Foreign Minister David Levy is to meet with US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright in Washington on Friday, to review American and Israeli positions on the current state of the peace process. The visit, at Albright's invitation, is expected to lay the groundwork for a visit by US special Middle East envoy Dennis Ross in the near future, diplomatic sources in Jerusalem said.

Ministry sources noted that Levy and Albright became acquainted and established friendly relations during the time Albright served as her country's UN representative, and that the two converse with each other in French.

In Washington, meanwhile, it was reported that Ross will return to the region in early May in a further bid to restart Israeli-Palestinian talks. Officials in Jerusalem, however, said Ross would return only when there is a real chance of renewing the talks.

"We're still probing, with the Israelis and the Palestinians, how to energize the negotiating track," a senior US official said Friday. "We'll probably be going back in two weeks."

Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat's spokesman urged the US to help restart the stalled peace process with Israel.

"[President] Clinton has promised Arafat to make an initiative and we are still waiting for it," spokesman Nabil Abu Rudeineh said yesterday.

The US official said the current stalemate "is as serious as I've seen," calling it a "crisis of confidence [that] won't be addressed easily, simply or quickly. We don't have a negotiating process, and we have to do something about it ... There's less in the bank now than at any time since we started," he said.

The official added that Israeli-Palestinian security cooperation earlier this month that led to the capture of the killers of Sharon Edri was "more or less" an isolated instance. "We need structured, ongoing cooperation. That we don't have yet." But he rejected the notion advanced by Palestinian officials that security cooperation was tied to political developments.

"It's not tied to it and we don't accept the logic of it. Security cooperation between Israelis and Palestinians underscores the logic of the whole process. The two [Wadi Kelt] murders [last week] are not going to help matters. We have to make sure the security cooperation is solid."

On Friday, State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns criticized the UN General Assembly's Har Homa resolution, saying that if the 134 countries that voted in favor really wanted to help solve the problem, they would emulate the US.

"We're a much more pragmatic and realistic country when it comes to this thing, than some of these other countries that just stand up and vote for meaningless resolutions," Burns said.

Meanwhile, the European Union's envoy to the Middle East, Miguel Moratinos, yesterday held

Continued on Page 3

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Mimouna celebrations today

By Jerusalem Post Staff

Mimouna celebrations were launched last night by Jews of Moroccan heritage, who opened their homes around the country to welcome guests.

The celebrations were officially opened after the close of Pessah last night in Ashdod, where Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, under tight security, called for unity.

Today, the central public Mimouna celebration will be held in the Jerusalem Municipality's Safra Square, instead of the usual venue, the city's Sacher Park. Mimouna organizers said tents and barbecues will not be allowed in Safra Square, where there will be a variety of musical and artistic entertainment, including a performance by singer Zehava Ben. Despite the change in venue, Sacher Park is expected to be packed with families barbecuing, and light musical entertainment is to be provided at the site.

Schoolchildren, meanwhile, enjoy an extra day of vacation today.

In the Ramat Gan National Park today, the Iranian Jewish community will hold its after-Pessah celebration, which is to be attended by President Ezer Weizman, Netanyahu, and MKs.

In Or Akiva last night, Weizman, Police Inspector-General Assaf Hefetz and OC Northern Command Maj.-Gen. Amiram Levine attended a Mimouna celebration.

During Pessah, some 700,000 people visited the country's national parks and nature reserves.

The National Parks Authority carried out a cleanliness campaign during the holiday, distributing garbage bags to vacationers. However, the authority said this led to no improvement in the litter situation, and it would take several days to restore cleanliness to the national parks.

Authority officials also noted a marked increase this year in the phenomenon of vacationers picking up wildflowers, which is outlawed.

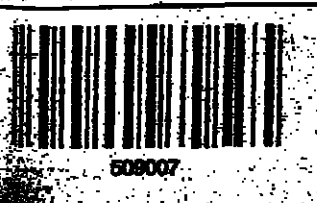
At the Coral Reserve in Eilat, the garbage left by vacationers was particularly bad this year. Hundreds of small plastic bags were left floating in the reserve, endangering the light and air supply to the reef.

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NEWS

in brief

Closure being eased today

From this morning, more than 5,000 Palestinian traders and hotel workers who are married and over 30 are being permitted entry from the West Bank and Gaza Strip into Israel. In addition, Palestinian medical personnel, teachers, journalists, and employees of the Civil Administration, international organizations and religious institutions may also travel to Jerusalem from the West Bank. *Itim*

B'nai B'rith package analyzed, found safe

The suspicious package delivered last week to the international headquarters of B'nai B'rith contained common household bacteria, the FBI said yesterday.

Tests conducted at the Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland, revealed it was not a disease-causing organism, as initially feared.

Authorities called in hazardous materials specialists after labels on a broken petri dish mailed to the Jewish service organization indicated it contained deadly anthrax and bubonic plague bacteria. More than 100 B'nai B'rith employees were quarantined in the group's Washington, DC offices for more than eight hours on Thursday when workers discovered the package. *AP*

Palestinian with knife stopped at roadblock

Border policemen found a knife in the pocket of a Palestinian from Beit Hanina at the A-Ram roadblock north of Jerusalem on Sunday. He said he had planned to stab a policeman or soldier because of a family dispute, and was held for questioning. *Itim*

Two seriously hurt in family feud

Two people were seriously injured in a fight between two families in the lower Galilee village of Tur'an last night. They were taken by ambulance to Poriya Hospital near Tiberias. Nazareth police, who broke up the scuffle, said it was part of an ongoing feud between the two families. *Itim*

Kiryat Yam man electrocuted

A Kiryat Yam man was electrocuted Sunday while trying to fix an electrical appliance. A Magen David Adom team declared him dead at the scene. *Itim*

Cairo court extends detention of suspected spy

A Cairo court has extended the detention for 45 days of a retired Egyptian navy officer accused of spying for Israel, officials said Sunday. Prosecutors argued in court on Saturday that they needed more time to investigate the case against Samir Osman, 47, who was arrested last November.

The prosecutors have accused Osman of selling military information to Israeli agents in Hungary, Greece and Turkey, as well as swimming 600 meters across the Red Sea from the Egyptian resort of Taba to the Israeli border for secret meetings with agents. If found guilty, Osman could face up to 25 years in jail. *AP*

Islamic Jihad warns of new wave of violence

Islamic Jihad issued a statement on Sunday night warning of "a large circle of violence and wars" in the region if Israel continues with its settlement policies. The statement, signed by the group's deputy leader, Hamdi Hami, said Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is leading the region to new violence because of what it termed his stubbornness in continuing construction at Har Homa. *Itim*

Father, baby die after crash

Yitzhak Nachum, 31, and his two-month-old daughter, who were injured in a crash on the Jerusalem-Ma'aleh Adumim Road on Saturday night, died in Hadassah-University Hospital in Jerusalem's Ein Kerem on Sunday.

Nachum's wife, Etty, remains in hospital after being seriously injured. Another seven people were hurt in the crash, which occurred when a car overtook a line of vehicles at a roadblock and collided head-on with the Nachum family car.

Lilach Cohen, 20, who was injured in a road accident near Beit Shemesh, died on Saturday. Omar Turki, 25, was killed and two others injured when a truck overturned on the Teffen-Carmiel road early Sunday morning. Traffic police said the driver lost control of the truck.

Eduardo Deizik, 28, died when his car crashed into an electricity pole near the Ashdod intersection

early Sunday morning. His 23-year-old girlfriend was critically injured and two of their friends were lightly hurt in the accident. Police said they had been driving from Ashkelon after a party, and they suspected the driver was drunk.

In Kiryat Malachi, six-year-old Inbar Zvi was seriously injured when she was hit by a jeep while crossing Ben Gurion Boulevard on Sunday evening. Traffic police said she walked onto the road from between parked cars, and the jeep driver was not able to brake in time.

Twelve people were injured, most of them lightly and none seriously, in two other accidents at the end of the Pessah holiday. Five sustained light-to-moderate injuries in a three-car collision on the Nazareth bypass road on Sunday night. Seven others were hurt when two cars collided sideways near the Beit Zarzir bridge yesterday morning. *Itim*

One killed in rioting near Hebron

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

IDF troops shot dead 18-year-old Issam Akabneh, a high school student and lightly wounded another Palestinian in rioting in Haras Village near Hebron on Sunday night.

Soldiers and border policemen operating in the area were attacked by Palestinians with stones and firebombs. In order to disperse the rioters soldiers opened fire at the Palestinians, resulting in the death of Akabneh, who was buried later that night.

Yesterday, hundreds of Palestinian students, shouting "Allah is great," marched in Haras from their schools to the mourning tent set up by the Akabneh family. Black and red graffiti scrawled on the walls of houses in the village signed by Hamas stated: "Your blood will not be spilled in vain. We swear we will avenge you."

The IDF Spokesman said last night the incident is under investigation, but confirmed that one Palestinian had died and another had been wounded.

Earlier on Sunday, IDF troops acting on intelligence information discovered three bombs inside a house in Kfar Dir Simat, also in the Hebron area. The occupants of the house said they had no knowledge of the bomb, and two brothers were detained for questioning. The bombs were later dismantled by IDF sappers. The bombs were reportedly being prepared for use in Hamas terrorist attacks against Israeli targets.

The IDF yesterday revoked an order imposed on Sunday prohibiting Israelis from entering the West Bank town of Jenin, and a closed military zone that had been declared on Tulzarm and Kalkiya.



Friends weep at a service yesterday for Palestinian high school student Issam Akabneh, who was shot and killed by IDF soldiers during a clash in Kfar Haras near Hebron on Sunday night. (AP)

Norwegian UNIFIL troops block IDF unit

An IDF unit was forced to halt its patrol in the eastern sector of the security zone on Sunday night, after soldiers in the UNIFIL Norwegian battalion blocked its way. In response, the IDF decided to prevent the Norwegian troops from moving about the area.

Yesterday a meeting was held between IDF and Norwegian liaison officers, who defused the situation and restored the previous freedom of movement of both sides. Senior commanders from both forces are to meet later in the week over the incident.

On Monday afternoon, guerrillas fired mortar rounds

at IDF and SLA positions in the western sector of the zone without causing casualties or damage.

The IDF Spokesman last night denied Lebanese reports that a school bus had been fired on by IDF troops in the eastern sector. Lebanon has submitted an official complaint on the alleged incident to the Grapes of Wrath monitoring committee.

The committee is to convene today to discuss a complaint by Israel over firing by guerrillas on Friday at populated areas of the zone and at Israeli territory. (Itim)



Palestinians walk past a protest tent near Kfar Yam in the Gaza Strip yesterday. (AP)

Palestinians protest IDF construction of ramparts around Kfar Yam

Palestinians in the Gaza Strip held a demonstration near Kfar Yam yesterday, in protest against work begun by the IDF five days ago to construct ramparts around Gush Katif settlements.

The Palestinians are protesting against what they said was the expropriation of land belonging to the Mawasi tribe, who live near Khan Yunis. After the IDF erected the earth ramparts, Palestinians brought two bulldozers and knocked them down.

The IDF later reconstructed the ramparts, and brought in extra forces. The ramparts were put up to protect the settlements in the event that they are attacked in clashes with the

Palestinians such as those last September.

At the protest gathering yesterday, which was the fifth held at the site in as many days, officials from the Palestinian Authority condemned the Israeli move.

PA official Mazen Izzadin said "the Netanyahu government is using terror and violence against the Palestinian people through expropriation of land and making settlements." He called on Palestinians to fight against this with any means.

Also yesterday, the Khan Yunis Municipality held an emergency session, with the participation of Palestinian Legislative Council members,

to discuss what it called the "Israeli take-over of Palestinian land in the Gaza Strip."

Meanwhile, the IDF has held discussions with the Palestinian Police about the ramparts. The IDF clarified to the Palestinians that the land used for the ramparts is under Israel's security control.

However, the Palestinians have refused to accept this position, comparing the move to the start of Israeli construction of Jewish housing on Har Homa, in southeastern Jerusalem. Palestinians in the Khan Yunis area claim that Israel plans to use the land taken for the ramparts to construct a new settlement in Gush Katif. (Itim)

Poll: Support for Palestinian state increasing

About half of all Israelis – the highest level ever – support the establishment of a Palestinian state, according to a poll released Sunday.

The poll, conducted by the Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies, also found that the number of Israelis opposed to returning any of the Golan Heights to Syria has dropped sharply in recent years.

Fifty-one percent of Israelis polled said Israel should agree to the establishment of a Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza Strip in the context of a peace treaty.

The poll, of 1,216 Israelis, had a margin of error of 2.8 percentage points.

Professor Asher Arian, who directed the survey, said the number of Israelis supporting the establishment of a Palestinian state has inched up steadily since the annual poll was first taken in 1984. A decade ago, only 20% of Israelis supported a Palestinian state, he said. Last year, about 48% did.

"It's a very major change," he said. "And it's only one of a number of indicators of continued and growing support for the peace

process."

The poll found that 60% of Israelis believe Palestinians want peace, up 20% from last year, Arian said. Thirty-one percent of those polled – an all-time low – opposed returning any of the Golan, which Israel captured in 1967, to Syria. That was down from 35% last year, and 40% in 1995, Arian said. Before that, the percentage opposed to returning any of the Golan had remained steady at about 50%.

Arian said he believes the apparent increase in flexibility on the Golan comes from the opening of talks with the Syrians, even those talks have now been stalled for more than a year, and the peace accords with the Palestinians.

Other poll findings: Seventy percent support the Israeli-Palestinian peace agreements, up from 66% a year earlier. Negotiating with the PLO was supported by 89%, up from 65 percent in 1996 and 53% in 1994. Nineteen percent believe that "the Arabs want to destroy the state and kill as many Jews as they can," down from 28 percent in 1996 and 49 percent in 1991. (AP)

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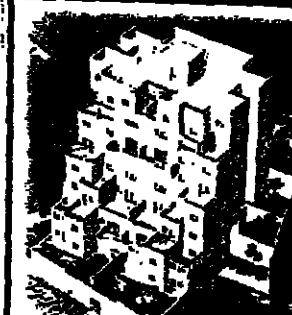
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Beilin, Arafat discuss peace moves

By SARAH HONIG and news agencies

Labor Party leadership candidate MK Yossi Beilin held talks with Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat in Jericho on Sunday and outlined a framework for breaking the impasse in the peace process.

Beilin discussed a three-point initiative with Arafat. Under the plan, both sides would avoid unilateral acts that violate the letter or spirit of the Oslo Accords of 1993:

- Israel would stop building Jewish settlements.
- Both sides would make a supreme effort to prevent violence and terrorism.
- Israel would immediately carry out a pullback from West Bank rural areas approved by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's cabinet in March, agree with Palestinians on a second pullback due in September, and enter into final-status and security talks with them.

Asked if the government would consider Beilin's initiative, Netanyahu's senior policy adviser David Bar-Ilan told Reuters: "No... Beilin cannot negotiate on behalf of the government."

A PLO official said Arafat accepted the initiative, though Palestinians are pessimistic about its prospects.

"It's just an attempt by the Labor Party to help resolve the crisis. Nothing can be taken seriously unless it comes from the Israeli government," said the official.

Beilin's meeting with Arafat was part of a series of meetings with



Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat and Labor Party leadership candidate MK Yossi Beilin meet in Jericho on Sunday. Arafat told reporters the peace process is in crisis over Israel's settlement policy. (Reuters)

foreign leaders and representatives, including a meeting with Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Moussa in Cairo and the EU envoy Miguel Angel Moratinos.

In all of his meetings Beilin was accompanied by two originators of the Oslo agreement - Yair Hirschfeld and Ron Pundak. He said his meetings were geared to push forward his plan to "rescue the peace process from its lowest point ever since the beginning of the Oslo process."

However, Beilin's initiative was censured by the Foreign Ministry. A senior Foreign Ministry source expressed amazement that "someone unauthorized to represent the state and speak on its behalf, so brazenly seeks to put in motion a duplicate foreign policy, as if the government had not existed and as if he is empowered to steer the country's foreign policy."

After meeting his meeting with Arafat in Jericho on Sunday morning, Beilin reported that "I have never seen him so depressed and so full of despair about the prospects for peace."

NEWS

in brief

Rahat teenager drowns off Ashkelon

A 17-year-old Beduin teenager from Rahat apparently drowned off Ashkelon yesterday afternoon. He had been swimming in a prohibited area and was swept out to sea. Other swimmers summoned help, and police, used a boat to search for him, but did not find his body. *Itm*

Nigerian cocaine ring exposed

Police have arrested seven people, most of them Nigerian nationals here illegally, on suspicion of importing and distributing cocaine in the central region and forging passports.

At the beginning of the month, police arrested four of the Nigerians, who were found with 700 grams of cocaine, electronic scales, official visa stamps and forged passports. This led to the arrest of three others, one of whom has dual Yugoslavian and Israeli citizenship. Police have recovered 17 passports forged by the gang. Several of the suspects were remanded in Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court on Friday, when a ban on publishing details of the arrests was removed. *Itm*

Manbar's remand extended for 10 days

Businessman Nahum Manbar, suspected of security crimes, was remanded for another 10 days on Friday by Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court. The hearing was held behind closed doors. *Itm*

Or Akiva man indicted for attempted murder

Isachar Isacov, 68, of Or Akiva, was charged by Haifa District Court on Sunday with attempting to murder Eliahu Vaknin on March 30 by burning him to death. Prosecutor Avital Bin-Nun told the court Isacov came to Vaknin's home apparently to collect money he was owed and invited Vaknin to accompany him to a nearby grove. There he poured a flammable liquid over him and set him alight, Bin-Nun said. Vaknin suffered third-degree burns over half his body and is still in the intensive care ward at Tel Hashomer's Sheba Hospital. Bin-Nun asked the court to remand Isacov through the end of proceedings. *Itm*

Morocco may close Mideast secretariat

RABAT (Reuters) - Morocco, in a clear sign of frustration at lack of Middle East political and economic development, is looking at closing a secretariat set up three years ago to promote progress.

Secretary-General Mustafa Terrab, who heads the secretariat created after a US and Russian-sponsored summit in Casablanca, said yesterday that Morocco feels the spirit of that summit has been lost.

"The Casablanca declaration was very clear on the fact that the Palestinian situation is central to this whole process," Terrab said, referring to plans to twin economic progress and political advances in the Middle East.

Under the declaration, a regional bank and councils for business and tourism were to be set up. The Rabat-based secretariat was to oversee economic summits and help implement decisions on trade and investment.

These were to go hand-in-hand with political progress on peace between Israel and the Arab countries, partners in the Casablanca summit.

"Ironically, if in 1994 this was visionary, now it is not only visionary - it is a priority," said Terrab. He said Morocco's decision to look at whether to keep the secretariat was not a reaction to political strains following Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's decision to authorize building a Jewish neighborhood in Jerusalem.

"What I refer to as realities on the ground are not the latest political developments, but rather the slow degradation of economic conditions within the Palestinian territories," he said. "That is not a new development, but something we have had to live with for years."

Terrab said Morocco feels its partners have not provided enough support either materially or for the "spirit" of what was supposed to follow the Casablanca summit - a mixture of economic and political advancement in the Middle East.

"Had that public-private partnership logic been taken seriously, there would have been more enthusiasm and more concrete support for what the secretariat is trying to achieve," he said.

Children's theater festival prizes

By HELEN KAYE

Vegar Ze'ev in Kever (And the Wolf Shall Lie Down with the Lamb), by Hamutal Ben-Ze'ev, Efron, won Best Production and Best Play at the Haifa Children's Theater Festival that ended over the weekend.

The production prize, worth NIS 12,000, was donated by Rivka Markel, wife of the late Mattityahu Markel, who was Haifa City Engineer. The show also garnered Best Costumes for designer Anat Messner. Prize for Best Director went to Hanochi Reim for *Panther in the Cellar* by Prima Geri based on the book by Amos Oz, and Hani Vardi won Best Lighting design for the same show.

Roy Horowitz (*Panther*) and Asher Sivan (*Zollet Nesihot* - Princess Gobbler) shared the Best Actor award. Bishara al-Hal won Best Music for his score, with Erica Sapir getting Best Set and Miki Mevorah honorable mention directing for *Antonia Rim*.

Zollet Nesihot also got honorable mentions in the production, music, and movement categories with playwright Ben-Ze'ev Efron also getting honorable mention for her adaptation of Brecht's *The Good Person of Szechwan*.

Palestinian man found guilty in Miami hijack case

MIAMI (Reuters) - A Palestinian man faces 20 years in a US prison for air piracy after a jury found him guilty on Friday of using a fake bomb and a makeshift knife to divert a Havana-bound Spanish airliner to Miami last July.

The 12-member panel deliberated for about four hours before delivering a guilty verdict against Saad'o Mohamed Ibrahim Intissar, 28. A sentencing hearing was set for August 11.

Ibrahim's attorney, Joaquin Mendez, had argued that Ibrahim diverted Iberia Flight 6621 on July 26 because he desperately wanted

to avoid going to Cuba for military training and had no choice but to hijack the plane.

Mendez said Ibrahim, who was born in a Palestinian refugee camp in Lebanon, had feared what might await him in Cuba because he was being sent to the Communist-ruled island by an organization he contended was associated with the Iranian-supported Hizbullah organization.

Cuba's Foreign Ministry subsequently denied the allegations. Assistant US Attorney Rick Carey, lead counsel for the prosecution, said evidence had not sup-

ported the defense's contention that Ibrahim had no other option.

"The factual evidence kind of put that in dispute. The evidence showed that there were opportunities that he could have taken short of this act of violence," he said. "He had a chance to bail out of this act at some point, but didn't."

Under federal sentencing guidelines, Ibrahim faces a minimum sentence of 20 years in prison, although that could be increased because he used a weapon. He would not face deportation until he had served his sentence, Carey said.

LEVY

Continued from Page 1

talks with Jordanian officials in Amman on ending the impasse in Arab-Israeli peace talks.

"My visit to Jordan aims to assess the peace process in view of difficulties that are confronting it and to discuss ways of putting the process back on track," Moratinos said.

He spoke with reporters after a meeting with Prime Minister

Abdul-Salam Majali. He did not mention any new initiatives.

The state-run Petra news agency said Moratinos spoke with Crown Prince Hassan about ways to restart Palestinian-Israeli peace talks.

It quoted Moratinos as saying the European Union is seeking to find a "common ground" to restore the talks that deadlocked in March, when Israel began construction of 6,500 homes for Jews in Jerusalem.

The official Egyptian daily *Al-Ahram* reported Sunday that President Hosni Mubarak is willing to host a summit for Jordan's King Hussein, Syrian President Hafez Assad, and Arafat to discuss an Arab peace initiative.

PA Planning Minister Nabil Sha'ath praised the Egyptian summit initiative, saying it is essential to discuss ways to rescue the peace process from its present deadlock.

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Texas separatists under siege

By MARK BABINECK

FORT DAVIS (AP) — A militant Texas separatist group swapped two hostages for a jailed member yesterday, more than 12 hours after invading a neighbor's home and triggering a standoff with police.

But the self-styled Republic of Texas "ambassador" said the group wouldn't give up and was "digging in."

"They released one of our people, our captain," Richard McLaren told the *San Antonio Express-News* by cell phone from his trailer "embassy" in the rugged Davis Mountains of west Texas.

"He's back at the embassy. All our boys are back. We're digging in." The Republic released hostages Joe Rowe and his wife, Margaret Ann Rowe, in a swap for Robert Jonathan Scheidt who was arrested on a weapons violation, Department of Public Safety spokeswoman Lauren Chernow said.

At least three dozen police who surrounded the remote subdivision called Davis Mountains Resort remained in position and planned to resume negotiations with the group later yesterday, Mrs. Chernow said.

The Republic of Texas contends that the annexation of Texas as a state in 1845 was illegal, that Texas should remain an independent nation, and that the group's leaders constitute the legitimate government of the independent nation of Texas. Texas was an independent republic from 1836 to 1845.

Similar anti-government sentiments have given rise to armed

militias across the country. The Montana Freemen, who also considered themselves a separate government with their own court system, held federal agents at bay for 81 days in a standoff at their ranch in the spring of 1996.

Reporters were kept at a rest stop several km from the entrance to the site, 350 km south of El Paso, the nearest major city.

Joe Rowe was in stable condition in an Alpine hospital after a minor gunshot wound to the shoulder.

The standoff began about noon Sunday, McLaren said hours later that the Rowes would be released in exchange for two Republic members: Scheidt, a 43-year-old identified as "captain of the embassy guard," and Jo Ann Canady Turner, arrested in Austin last week on two contempt charges. Ms. Turner remained in custody.

McLaren demanded another concession.

"We want them to ... agree to a referendum to allow Texans to vote on the independence issue," he told San Antonio radio station WOAI.

McLaren apparently was not part of the assault on the Rowes and remained about 24 km away at a ramshackle trailer surrounded by trees. Richard Keys, the "militia lieutenant commander," claimed to be in charge at the Rowe house.

The group refused to specify its numbers. The DPS declined to speculate.

Ms. Chernow said the Rowes' home, which overlooks the only road into the development, remained occupied yesterday.

Although the hostages were released, other residents remained in about 90 homes scattered over thousands of hectares of rugged high-desert terrain.

Some residents said they were afraid to travel the road because it would mean passing the Rowe house.

"We would like to advise them to stay calm," DPS spokeswoman Lucila Torres said of the residents.

Neighbors were complaining for months about McLaren, a wild-haired, lanky 43-year-old man who filed property liens against them and threatened them with machine guns. He has avoided an arrest warrant since last December for filing bogus liens.

"We've been telling people ... this was going to happen," said neighbor Michelle Behrendt. "They (authorities) sat on their thumbs and did nothing." Last month, McLaren threatened to fight back against the government and compared his situation to fatal standoffs at Waco, Texas, and Ruby Ridge, Idaho.

"These boys are asking for a total military assault," McLaren said in an interview. "Our defense forces will fire because we would consider it an invasion." McLaren represents one of three Republic factions that resulted from a split over tactics and finances late last year.

Last month, one faction "impeached" McLaren. And a message on a World Wide Web site attributed to the Republic of Texas read: "It appears that Richard McLaren and those acting with him have gone completely off the deep end."



The Iraq Workers' Union holds a procession in Baghdad Sunday in the runup to Saddam Hussein's birthday today. (AP)

Iraq marks Saddam's birthday

BAGHDAD (Reuters) — Iraq's official media marked President Saddam Hussein's 60th birthday yesterday with poems and articles praising their leader as "a blessing from God."

Loudspeakers in streets of the capital blared out: "Blessed be your birthday, our beloved leader. May God add from our age to yours." Iraqi television showed pictures of Saddam touring the countryside, meeting armed forces and visiting schools and universities.

Shebab Television, run by Saddam's eldest son Uday who was crippled in a shooting last December, changed its name to "Birthday TV" and ran special programs to mark the occasion.

Saddam has been in power since 1979 and led Iraq through two wars — an eight-year conflict with Iran and then the 1991 Gulf war which ended with the ouster of Iraqi troops from Kuwait by American-led forces.

Baghdad radio ran special programs conducting interviews with writers and ordinary citizens who pledged loyalty to Saddam and backed his fight against what they deemed an unfair embargo imposed by the United Nations after the seizure of Kuwait.

Newspapers ran commentaries praising Saddam for standing up to "the tyranny of Washington."

Iraq twice defied the United Nations and Washington this month, first by flying a plane-load of haj pilgrims to Saudi Arabia and then by sending helicopters through the West's no-fly zones to the Saudi border to take them home.

Baghdad papers said the day was coming close to have the UN trade sanctions lifted whether Washington liked it or not.

The papers said celebrations were held in villages, towns and cities across Iraq. In every provincial center Baath party officials and crowds of people took part, handing out free cakes, chocolates and beverages.

A new mosque was opened in Saddam's home town of Tikrit and the foundation stone laid for another in Baghdad.

Tens of thousands of Iraqis staged a huge parade yesterday in Tikrit which is 170 km north of Baghdad.

The parade was attended by almost all Iraqi leaders except Saddam. Izzat Ibrahim, Vice-President of the Revolutionary Command Council, presided over the ceremonies. In recent years they have been turned into one of Iraq's national festivals.

Young girls wearing Arab and Kurdish costumes danced and sang a birthday song, groups of military men paraded in front of Ibrahim and formations of air force planes and helicopter gunships flew over the agricultural town.

On the road to Tikrit farmers and tribal chieftains had pitched large tents with cauldrons of rice and stewed meat offering free meals to well-wishers.

Fuhrman headed anti-female cop group

NEW YORK (AP) — Disgraced former Los Angeles police Detective Mark Fuhrman was the "Grand Dragon" of an anti-female police group and wore a "hood" at "tribunals" held to punish male officers who refused to shun female officers, the *Daily News* reported yesterday.

Fuhrman, whose bigoted tape-recorded comments were a major part of O.J. Simpson's criminal trial, described putting on a hooded sweatshirt to preside at beer-fueled mock trials held at night at a baseball field, the paper said.

"I am the Grand Dragon. The

"Hood" is what we call it," Fuhrman said in never-released portions of the tapes cited by the *Daily News*.

Fuhrman's racist remarks on the tapes led to his plea of no contest to a perjury charge last year.

However in his book, *Murder in Brentwood*, Fuhrman said he exaggerated on the tapes to impress an aspiring screenwriter.

The *Daily News* said in the tapes Fuhrman revealed his leadership in Men Against Women, an all-male club of LAPD officers that ostracized female police to drive them from the force.

Chretien calls early Canada poll

OTTAWA (AP) — Confident that opposition parties are too weak to oust him, Prime Minister Jean Chretien has announced a federal election will be held June 2 — a year and half before his five-year term expires.

Chretien's foes, who were anticipating the announcement for weeks, complain there is no justification for an early election other than his Liberal Party's eagerness to win another mandate. No other government with a majority in parliament has called an election so early in four decades.

Though Chretien's popularity has ebbed slightly after record-high ratings through his first three years in office, the middle-of-the-road Liberals remain the only party with substantial support across the country.

Recent polls show the Liberals' support at around 45 percent, compared to between 10 and 16 percent each for the four rival parties. Experts predict the Liberals will win between 180 and 220 seats in new House of Commons, which is expanding from 295 to 301 seats. The Liberals now hold 175 seats.

Mogul seeks big films

BONN (AP) — Leo Kirch, the financially strapped German media tycoon, is reportedly seeking to buy television rights to major movies, including classics such as *Gone with the Wind* and *Ben Hur*, from MGM studios.

The envisaged deal, worth several hundred million dollars, would give Kirch the German-language area pay-TV rights for a package of MGM productions for 10 years, the newsweekly *Der Spiegel* said yesterday. The deal also includes future Bond movies. Spokesman Johannes Schmitz confirmed yesterday that Kirch Gruppe is negotiating with MGM, but declined to give details.

Kirch is in financial difficulties after British Sky Broadcasting pulled out of Kirch Gruppe's DFL digital pay-TV project in Germany, which failed to capture a wide audience.

Serial killer evidence lacking

MONS, Belgium (AP) — A court ruled yesterday there is insufficient evidence to detain a man accused of cutting up the bodies of up to five women, setting back the investigation into the serial killings.

But the 33-year-old man will remain behind bars for another two weeks because the prosecutor immediately appealed the decision.

The man lived in a trailer park close to where some of the body parts were dumped over the past month and was the last boyfriend of one of the victims.

He was arrested April 22 and accused of murdering that woman, Nathalie Godart, whose severed head

and limbs were found at several locations around Mons, 60 km south of Brussels.

His attorney said "there is nothing concrete to link him to the crime," he said.

In the past month, the remains of at least four — possibly five — women have been found in 15 garbage bags. The killer disposed of all in the same way, surgically cutting up the victims before dumping them.

Many of the body parts were found in locations with macabre names: the rivers Hate and Fear, Anxiety Lane and Saint Symphonien Street, named after a beheaded martyr.

Thatcher reassures Hong Kong democrat

HONG KONG (AP) — Margaret Thatcher, Britain's former prime minister, met with Hong Kong's foremost democrat yesterday and assured him she would speak up for the freedoms China has promised the colony.

Mrs. Thatcher spent an hour with Martin Lee, leader of the Democratic Party, at the official residence of Gov. Chris Patten, a statement said.

It said she told Lee that "I will continue to speak up for Hong

Kong's freedoms, its rule of law and its elected legislature" after China takes over on July 1.

Lee's party is the largest in the legislature, but objects to China's plans to disband the assembly and refuses to sit on the temporary Chinese-organized legislature that will replace it.

Lee said he believed Mrs. Thatcher "is very concerned to see that basic freedoms are not rolled back."

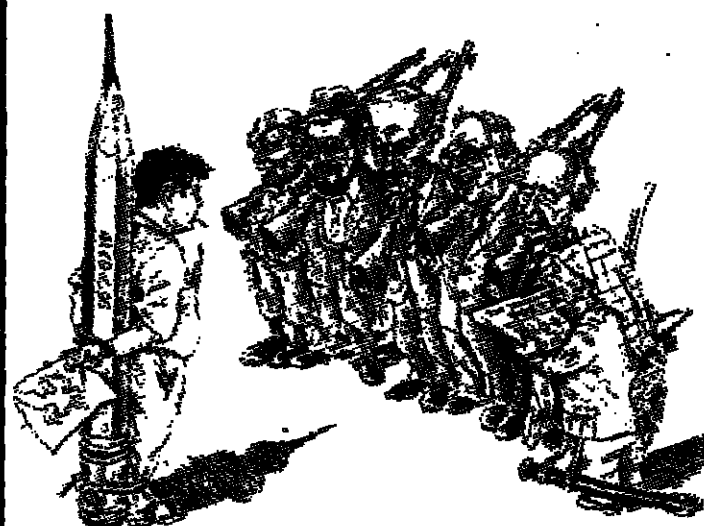
"She believes that the solemn

international promises made to Hong Kong people in 1984 must be honored, and in full," he said in a statement.

Mrs. Thatcher signed the 1984 agreement with China that returns Hong Kong to Chinese sovereignty. The agreement promises to keep Hong Kong's capitalist economy, legal system and civil liberties.

Mrs. Thatcher arrived in Hong Kong Sunday to open the Tsing Ma suspension bridge, the world's longest rail-and-road span.

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Yemen's ruling party takes lead in election

By ANTHONY SHADID

SANAA (AP) — The party of President Ali Abdullah Saleh won a majority of the districts counted yesterday in parliament elections in Yemen, the Arabian Peninsula's most democratic country.

With 49 of 301 constituencies decided, Saleh's General People's Congress had won 33 seats. Its principal foe, the Islamic Islah party, took nine seats and independents won seven, according to a monitoring group with the Supreme Elections Committee.

The committee later announced that no more returns would be released until today. Said al-Hakimi, a spokesman for the committee, said a high turnout and the large number of symbols used to represent candidates on the ballot delayed the counting.

The Congress and Islah are expected to

win the most seats.

The election marked Yemen's first vote since a two-month civil war in 1994 almost tore apart the union four years earlier of the conservative, traditional North and socialist South. It was tarnished by violence that killed 11 people and a boycott by followers of the Yemen Socialist Party in the South.

In the worst incident, a guard at a polling station in Mukayras in southern Yemen opened fire on fellow guards and election workers hours before the polls opened, killing eight and wounding one. Interior Minister Hussein Mohammed Arab said.

The minister called it "a criminal act" and said the soldier was arrested. Polling officials and election monitors suggested he went berserk before the rampage in the room where the people slept.

More than 2,300 candidates competed, about two-thirds of them independents.

Turnout was about 80 percent, al-Hakimi said.

"With the success of the elections ... democracy has become the political system for the Yemeni republic," an editorial in the pro-government *Al-Thawra* said yesterday.

Many Yemenis saw the vote as an indicator of whether their fledgling democracy could endure in this poor country on the southern rim of the Arabian Peninsula. The legacy of the war still weighs heavily on residents of the port of Aden, the South's former capital which has become a backwater.

There, some residents declared they would follow the lead of the Yemen Socialist Party and boycott the vote.

But elsewhere, there was enthusiasm for the election, by far the freest in the peninsula's otherwise bleak landscape. In more than a quarter of the polling stations, voting went on for an extra two hours as allowed by law, election monitors said.

"My opinion is the opinion of the country, we are exercising our rights," said Sadeq Rashid, a 21-year-old student voting at a school where lines wrapped around the building even before polls opened.

In a country with three times as many guns as people, violence was also a worry. Arab, who is responsible for security, said three of the people killed Sunday had been in fights blamed on vendettas. But foreign and local election monitors insisted that two were killed in a clash between supporters of rival candidates, one of whom was angry over the symbol he had to use on the ballot.

Election monitors said the violations did not seriously interfere with the voting.

"The process was highly transparent and open," said the Elections Monitoring Committee, an independent group.

During the campaign, the economy emerged as the biggest issue.

Chinese police kill 2 Moslems in riot shooting

BEIJING (AP) — Chinese police in a region shaken by separatists killed two people and wounded five when they fired on a crowd of Moslems who surrounded buses taking convicted rioters to jail, an official said yesterday.

The shooting in Yining city, in the northwestern region of Xinjiang, followed a public rally at which three people were sentenced to death and 27 others to prison for involvement in anti-Chinese riots in February.

A crowd of Uighurs, Xinjiang's Moslem majority, surrounded and blocked buses carrying the convicted rioters and ignored police warnings to disperse, said an official at the Communist Party's headquarters for Xinjiang, who gave only his surname, Zang.

"After the sentencing rally, they surrounded the buses," Zang said in a telephone interview from Urumqi, Xinjiang's capital. "We warned them. Eventually we opened fire." He said two people were killed and five wounded.

The crowd may have been "emotional because their relations and children had been arrested," Zang said.

The three people sentenced to death at the rally in a sports stadium were executed the same day.

The prison terms of the other 27 ranged from seven years to life.

The newspaper *Hong Kong Standard* said the crowd that surrounded the buses numbered 500. But Zang said only several dozen "criminal elements" took part.

He said authorities were investigating whether the trouble was related to Moslem separatists in Xinjiang. Xinjiang's Uighurs and other Moslem ethnic groups have grown increasingly resentful of Chinese rule and settlers in recent years.

The riots in Yining Feb. 5 and 6, when crowds of young Moslems beat people to death, were among the worst in Xinjiang since the 1949 Communist takeover.

At least 10 people were killed and 140 injured, by official count. Uighurs living in exile in Kazakhstan claim to be funneling money and weapons to separatists in Xinjiang. The Uighurs ran their own republic in Xinjiang for five years before 1949.

Kazak police arrested 33 Uighurs yesterday for staging an illegal demonstration outside the Chinese Embassy in Almaty. The demonstrators were protesting the executions in Yining last week.

Coalition leads polls in France

PARIS (Reuters) — Two opinion polls yesterday showed France's center-right coalition heading for a narrow majority in next month's parliamentary elections but found about one-third of voters could change their minds.

A poll for France 2 television said that if the May 25-June 1 election were held now, the ruling RPR-UDF coalition would win 296 of the 555 seats in metropolitan France, the Socialists 238, the Communists 18, the ecologists two and the extreme-right National Front one.

The poll, taken over the weekend with a sample of 1,030 registered voters, gave the following voting intentions on the first round: UDF-RPR 39 percent, Socialists and others on the left 28%, National Front 14%, Communists 10%, ecologists 7% and extreme left 2%.

Seventeen percent of those who said they were certain to vote did not express a voting intention. Of those who did, 38% said they could still change their minds.

A weekend poll on a sample of 889 registered voters, gave the following voting intentions: UDF-RPR and other right 40%, Socialists and other left 26%, National Front 13%, Communists 14%, ecologists 7% and extreme left 2%.



Indonesian leftists on trial

The chairman of the left-wing Indonesian People's Democratic Party Budman Sudjatmiko (center) is manhandled by security guards as he leaves Central Jakarta State Court yesterday. More than 100 supporters of Sudjatmiko and other leftists on trial for their part in anti-government protests scuffled with police outside the court.

(Reuters)

Relentless Blair rallies troops

LONDON (AP) — Prime Minister John Major flew to Northern Ireland and Scotland yesterday to stress his commitment to the United Kingdom, an issue he has emphasized in the waning days of the election campaign.

Major's journey, with plans for a stop in Wales, underlined his opposition to Labor's plans for "devolution" of some legislative responsibilities to assemblies in Wales and Scotland.

Labor party leader Tony Blair attacked the government's record on health yesterday and warned supporters against overconfidence as the May 1 election nears.

"The UK has four components. The interest of the government extends to every part of the UK and we are concerned with the security of the UK," Major said in Belfast.

"I think there is something slightly absurd about Mr. Major touring round the UK saying that Scottish devolution is a disaster for the UK when what he proposes for Northern Ireland is precisely that same devolution," Blair said.

Major's government and the Irish government have jointly proposed a form of self-government for Northern Ireland, but have said they will support any agreement reached in all-party negotiations.

Labor supports government policy, and Northern Ireland has not been a campaign issue.

With opinion polls continuing to show a large and steady Labor lead, some newspapers turned their attention yesterday to reports of rifts within the governing party and speculation about how quickly Major would stand down as party leader after a defeat.

Opinion polls, including one by Gallup published yesterday which showed Labor 19 points ahead, point to the possibility of a landslide on the scale of 1945, when Labor crushed the Conservatives led by Winston Churchill.

At his morning news conference, Blair focused on the government's program of introducing market system into the National Health Service, which was created by that 1945 government.

"I fear for the future of the NHS if the Tories get back in," he said.

IRA prisoners free hostage

BELFAST (AP) — Two prisoners held a guard hostage at gunpoint for four hours yesterday at Maghaberry prison, a medium-security facility designed to coax terrorists away from their organizations.

The Northern Ireland Office said the men gave up after negotiations with senior prison staff. One prisoner had a handgun and the other had a fake gun.

Guards at Maghaberry, 40 km west of Belfast, are unarmed precisely to avoid having their weapons taken by inmates.

The incident was in one of the prison's four residential-style compounds where prisoners have their own kitchens, TVs and stereos and live in a politically mixed environment — Irish republicans and pro-British "loyalists" together.

A security source said the two were convicted members of the outlawed Irish National Liberation Army, a splinter of the IRA.

Separatists lose out in Italy vote

ROME (Reuters) — Both of Italy's main political blocs claimed success yesterday from weekend local elections, which saw opposition parties lead in the key northern cities of Milan and Turin but gave government allies a boost in the provinces.

The big loser was the separatist Northern League, which lost control of Italy's second city, Milan, and was ousted from power from the three provincial governments it had previously run.

According to provisional results, the center-right Freedom Alliance secured a first round lead in the most prestigious battles for mayors in the wealthy cities of Milan and Turin, pushing government coalition candidates into second place.

Both contests go to second round run-offs on May 11.

Refugees return to Zaire camps

News agencies

BIARU, Zaire — Thousands of Rwandan Hutu refugees returned yesterday to camps south of the Zairean city of Kisangani they fled last week, while dozens of compatriots who died in the exodus lay buried, witnesses said.

Aid officials and journalists who managed to visit Biaru camp, 40 km south of Kisangani city, saw about 5,000 refugees drifting out of the forest back to their camps.

The US ambassador to the United Nations flew to Zaire yesterday and said he would meet with both President Mobutu Sese Seko and the rebel leader who is trying to unseat him.

Bill Richardson said he would meet with the ailing president today, then travel to the rebel-held southern city of Lubumbashi tomorrow to talk with rebel leader Laurent Kabila.

"The US administration believes there can be no military solution, but rather a negotiated settlement," he told reporters when he

arrived in Kinshasa, the capital.

Efforts in recent weeks to arrange a meeting between Kabila and Mobutu have failed, though officials say talks between the two men could take place this week in neighboring Gabon.

Richardson said he also would try to help get relief supplies to the 100,000 Rwandan refugees in eastern Zaire.

"There have been reports of human rights abuse and massacres. This must end," he said.

Since October, Kabila's forces have seized half of the Central African country in a bid to topple Mobutu. Some 100,000 Rwandan Hutu refugees have fled each rebel advance, convinced the Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo-Zaire is out to exterminate them with the backing of the Tutsi Rwandan government.

The refugees are among the more than 1 million Hutus who

fled Rwanda in 1994, fearing reprisals for the country's state-

orchestrated genocide that killed at least 500,000 people, mostly Tutsis and moderate Hutus. Most have since returned to Rwanda.

Human rights organizations accused the rebels of killing refugees and terrorizing their camps.

After talks with UN officials in the eastern city of Kisangani, Kabila abruptly gave the United Nations two months to track down and evacuate the 100,000 refugees still on the run.

Rebels advancing on Kinshasa were closing in on the provincial town of Kikwit yesterday and local authorities asked government soldiers to lay down their arms, residents said.

"Kikwit is on the point of falling. There is no panic and people are calm," said a resident in radio contact with Kinshasa.

Indian leaders face charges

NEW DELHI (AP) — Federal investigators have decided to prosecute leaders of the governing coalition, casting a shadow over new Prime Minister Inder Kumar Gujral's government.

Reports yesterday said leaders of the coalition's main ally also have been targeted in the scandal, which involves the theft of \$138 million from a state treasury.

The accused include the president of Gujral's Janata Dal party and a regional leader of his United Front coalition's main supporter, the Congress Party.

The list of 56 accused also includes Chandraseo Prasad Varma, Gujral's Cabinet minister for rural areas and employment.

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Bailing out Africa

The commander of French troops on standby for an evacuation of foreigners from Kinshasa said yesterday he hopes "we can count on African wisdom" to spare the capital of Zaire from being sucked into the civil war that has left half the country in rebel hands. It was hard to believe the man was not being humorous, given the evidence so far of "African wisdom." Wisdom is the rarest of commodities among African leaders. One need look no further than the totally inept hot-air forum of the Organization of African Unity — a group so mind-boggling in its ability to wed delusions of grandeur to political incompetence over several decades that it makes even the Non-Aligned Movement look useful.

African wisdom or intervention is sorely lacking in Zaire, except from South Africa, which is actively trying to broker talks to end the conflict. Some credit is due also to Zaire's poverty-stricken neighbor, Congo, which is hosting a motley collection of Western armed forces standing by to rescue their nationals from Kinshasa if necessary — 1,800 Americans, 500 Belgians, 300 French, 200 British.

Laurent Kabila's rebels, who now control half of the catastrophically plundered country, meanwhile continued their advance on Kinshasa. This was as US envoy Bill Richardson was arriving in the capital mouthing the meaningless platitude that "there can be no military solution to the crisis, but rather a negotiated settlement leading to an inclusive transitional government and fair and free elections." The drive to a negotiated settlement is so serious that South Africa cannot get Kabila and Mobutu Seko Seso to agree even on a venue for talks.

Richardson must know as well as anyone else that a military solution for the dictatorship of Mobutu has been in full swing since last October, after the Rwanda-Burundi crisis spilled over the border. All that is left for international mediators to do is try to ascertain whether Kabila is a cure that will be worse or better than the Mobutu disease, and prepare their future policies accordingly.

In that respect, US Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin was on a more realistic track yesterday, when he told the International Monetary Fund that the international community must find new ways to help Africa with economic reform programs. It is a noble sentiment, but one can only hope any such economic pump-priming is going to be somewhat more effective than the past economic aid poured into African black holes, dictators' palaces, or even Swiss bank accounts. One need look no further than Mobutu for a prime example of a Western economic client of the old school.

The IMF last week decided to single out Uganda as the first African country to benefit from a new debt relief program for poor nations. That was a decision which sends the right message to those who want to hear it. Since its own civil war ended in 1986, Uganda has vigorously pursued a 10-year economic reform program. Other African countries likely to be rewarded soon for "good effort" include Ivory Coast and Burkina Faso. Since it appears Kabila may soon be the next leader of Zaire, the time is appropriate to send him and other aspiring African leaders the clear message that, from now on, Western organizations will help not those leaders who help themselves, but those who help their nations.

Democracy in Yemen

If this weekend's elections in Yemen are any indication, Israelis may soon have to give up one of their favorite clichés — "the only democracy in the Middle East."

It is true the voting was marred by fatal violence, which left nine people dead, but it is possible to look beyond this and appreciate what Yemen is trying to achieve. Most of the deaths were caused by one soldier going berserk in a polling station. It is the kind of mindless violence that can strike anywhere from Scotland to Tasmania these days and no political motive was immediately identified. The shooting does not detract from the fact that around 70 percent of the country's people turned out to cast their votes in what international observers called a free and fair exercise in democracy.

Yemen deserves all the more credit for trying — some 2,300 candidates freely campaigned for parliamentary seats — since it was long regarded as a poor and divided land of fractious tribal

loyalties. Even more significantly, this election is a serious test of Yemen's bid to establish democracy, as it is the first since the 1994 civil war, which many thought had so destroyed the nation that only a ruthless dictator could hold it together.

It is true President Ali Abdullah Saleh's party and its junior coalition partner look likely to retain power, but the president certainly deserves credit and congratulations for his democratic mandate. Even his Islamist coalition partner, Islah, is unique in the Arab world. Not only does it preach a tolerant Islam and advocate democracy, but it has moved from opposition to serving in a coalition government only through free elections. Yemen may indeed be poorer, more tribal, and more divisive than many of its richer, more sophisticated Gulf Arab neighbors, but it is setting them all a democratic example it can be extremely proud of, and they can be ashamed of not emulating.



A tragedy of errors

Benjamin Netanyahu is probably right. In the Bar-On Affair, he is not guilty of a crime but an error. This however is precisely the reason why he cannot continue in office.

For a prime minister, chronic misjudgment is a misdemeanor. And since coming to power the Netanyahu administration has done very little but err, err, and err again. Were it not tragic, a comedy of errors would be an apt description of the Bibi era.

Few leaders have had the opportunity history gave Netanyahu. Few have squandered it so miserably.

The results of the 1996 elections constituted an almost miraculous reprieve for the nation, granting it a last-minute chance to inch its way back from the precipice of Oslo. The public waited with eager anticipation for a new style of government — firm, crisp, and assertive. For a new mode of leadership — resolute, unapologetic, articulate — which at long last would present Israel's case to the world with the élan and eloquence it deserves.

There appeared to be every reason for high hopes. The newly elected premier seemed to have the ingredients to make him a statesman of international stature. He was young, charismatic and had excelled as a soldier, scholar, diplomat and politician. But above all Netanyahu was one of the few — if not the only — premier-elect who, prior to taking office, had impressively articulated a comprehensive political credo.

His deservedly acclaimed book *A Place Among the Nations* was a forceful and persuasive presentation of an overall Zionist philosophy, rooted in classical liberal traditions, and seen by many as constituting the basis for his practical

MARTIN SHERMAN

political agenda. It was logical, coherent and sellable.

THE contrast between lofty hopes and dismal reality could hardly have been more dramatic. From the outset, the Netanyahu government staggered from blunder to blunder of ever-growing proportions.

After the mindlessly myopic (and utterly unnecessary) agreement with Tsomet and Gesher had

Netanyahu has squandered a historic opportunity

predictably left his own party diminished, disgruntled and demoralized, Netanyahu proceeded to squander all the advantages that the new system of direct elections could have afforded him and his administration.

Instead of eliminating the uncomely horse-trading by coalition partners that typified the old system, Netanyahu allowed himself to be subjected to ever-increasing extortion, which culminated in the undignified, halting presentation of his government in the Knesset. Instead of appointing ministers on the basis of their professional qualifications, it was party affiliations which, as in the past, carried the day.

On the rare occasions that Netanyahu did go through the motions of trying to appoint non-political ministers with apparently appropriate expertise, the attempts ended in fiasco, exposing either his lack of resolution (in the case of Jacob Frenkel) or lack of judgment (in the case of Ya'acov

Ne'eman). Even more perturbing was his selection of advisors. He appears to have assembled a group which is at once, inept, unethical and ineffective, whose inexperience is exceeded only by its incompetence. Accordingly the administration's performance has lurched wildly between brazen bullying and craven capitulation.

The rare opportunity created last May has been irretrievably lost. Deprived of the vigor and passion necessary to fulfill its ordained purpose, the administration could do little but opt for the line of least resistance, even then stumbling into pitfall after needless pitfall. The Bar-On Affair was not an exceptional blunder, merely one which Netanyahu's political adversaries could exploit.

The prime minister has spoken much lately of the "voters' verdict." True, the electorate rejected both the substance (Oslo) and the style (the Goldfarb-Segev agreement) of the previous government. But the present government has "changed" neither substance nor style, as the Hebrew redeployment and the Bar-On appointment prove. Having failed to discharge its duty, it must be replaced.

The leaders of National Camp would do well to desist from their uncalled for and unbecoming moaning. Their bewailing of a hostile press and a demonic conspiracy involving the branches of law enforcement have a hollow and pathetic ring.

Rather than trying to defend the indefensible, they would better serve their cause by creating a viable alternative to Netanyahu; lest the Labor-led Left return to power — by default.

The writer is a political science lecturer at Tel Aviv University.

Poles apart

RICHARD CHESNOFF

A visit to East European Jewish communities is a bittersweet journey. It is wellsprings of cultural, religious and scientific creativity that will never truly flow again. More than three million Jews lived in Poland on the eve of World War II.

Today's organized community consists of less than 5000, mostly aged souls.

What better time than Passover to celebrate the young voices being heard among the rabbis? Recently I joined hundreds who crowded into the old Yiddish Theater on the site of the Warsaw Ghetto to watch costumed children celebrate Purim — the joyous celebration of salvation from enemies.

Throughout Eastern Europe the fall of Communism has awakened new interest in Jewish life. Much of the credit for this fledgling Jewish renaissance goes to the Joint Distribution Committee and the Ronald S. Lauder Foundation.

In Budapest, the Lauder-sponsored Javneh School, with more than 600 students, is now considered among the best in the Hungarian capital.

In Prague and Bucharest plans are underway for new Jewish kindergartens. And in Warsaw, the Lauder-Morasha School, says American director, Helise Liebermann, will boast close to 100 children next year.

Historian Yale Reiser, Liebermann's husband, is running a Lauder-sponsored genealogical service that works out of Warsaw's famed Jewish Historical Institute. Using a wealth of original documents (including copies of Schindler's lists), Reiser is helping people reunite with long-lost relatives.

In many cases, those searching are Poles who only recently discovered that they were actually Jewish children hidden with

Who are the heirs to 1,000 years of Jewish history?

Christian families during the war. Among them is a priest from Lublin who recently found his real family in Israel.

THIS rebirth and search for roots comes at an auspicious time as East European governments have finally begun to agree to return at least part of the wealth of communal property stolen from the Jews — first by the Nazis and then by the Communists. Polish President Alexander Kwasniewski's aides say he will sign a new law this month that facilitates the return of more than 1,000 cemeteries as well as hundreds of synagogues, hospitals, schools and other sites.

The accord was negotiated thanks to the efforts of Edgar Bronfman, president of the World Jewish Restitution Organization. But there's a potential conflict between the WJRO and the tiny Polish Federation of Jewish Communities.

Whereas the local federation wants to maintain control, Bronfman justifiably wants to preserve many of the historic properties and divide the income between Poland's Jewish community, Holocaust survivors abroad, and world Jewish social and educational groups.

It is inconceivable that Poland's small community should be sole heir to a legacy of 1,000 years of Jewish history. The Polish government should insist, as it once agreed, that the WJRO administer the properties. Internal strife is the last thing East European Jews can afford.

Courtesy of The New York Daily News.

POSTSCRIPT

A DISABLED man who became ill while logged onto an Internet chess site managed to summon help from a fellow player hundreds of kilometers away.

Charles Drafts, a double amputee who types using a stick in his mouth, was online with 159 other people when he suddenly sent out a message for help.

Drafts, of Boston, typed: "I'm disabled and having trouble (sic) of breath, call ambulance (sic)." He also managed to type in his address.

While several users tried to find out what symptoms Drafts was suffering, Andy McFarland of Owensboro, Kentucky, was calling Boston's emergency medical services on his second phone line.

"When he finally got through, he told dispatchers where he was, calling from and explaining the situation."

"I think I lost them for just a second," McFarland said. "It's not something they get every day." Drafts was hospitalized with an undisclosed condition.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

ANTI-DEMOCRATIC

Sir, — How pathetic and yet how dangerous are those who have still not come to terms with the fact that they lost the last elections in a landslide victory to Benjamin Netanyahu. Our vindictive and overweening opposition continues to plague our daily lives with unprincipled attempts to topple the prime minister, even to the point of using anti-democratic means. With each new opposition failure, Netanyahu's position gets a further boost and more and more citizens are being drawn to his side, repelled by the devious, hypocritical fanatics of our unscrupulous opposition obsessively bent on defaming, degrading and deposing Netanyahu no matter how, no matter what. However, the opposition's onslaughts, even with the massive assistance at its command in the media, are producing a very natural backlash by the public against the zealous accusers themselves, rather than against their beleaguered target, Netanyahu.

Unfortunately, however, our irresponsible opposition can claim credit for at least one Pyrrhic victory. With the eager assistance of like-minded colleagues in both local and foreign media (the latter no longer making any effort to hide its anti-Israeli and anti-Jewish stance), our left-wing zealots have succeeded in "demonizing" and "delegitimizing" our prime minister in the eyes of many misinformed viewers throughout the world. Regardless of the damage they are causing to both Netanyahu and the people of Israel as a whole, our irresponsible left-wing zealots continue their vendettas.

TRUDY GEFEN

Kiryat Ono.

NATIONAL UNITY GOVERNMENT

Sir, — There is talk of a national unity government and I cannot help but wonder if we are all not the victims of some great political hoax. What is the purpose of voting for a prime minister if he is then going to go and join hands with the very person whom we voted against? If I wanted Peres, I would have voted for him. If I wanted Arafat on my doorstep, I would have campaigned wholeheartedly for the Labor Party. If I wanted a divided Jerusalem, a weakened Israel, and no access to Hebron's holy sites, I could have saved the people of Israel the expense of printing stationery for the new prime minister and just kept the last one.

No, the people of Israel have spoken and bringing Peres into a national unity government is simply ignoring the results of the election. What Israel needs now is a strong prime minister with the backbone to stand up and say that we will not negotiate from a position of weakness and we will not be bullied into any agreement under the threat of violence. We will live up to the Oslo Accords because as a democratic nation we have a moral obligation to honor past agreements signed in good faith by our past leaders, no matter how misguided. But Netanyahu must make it clear to everyone that we will honor those accords if, and only if, our "partners" start living up to them as well.

A national unity government is the coward's way out.

PAULA R. STERN

Sha'arei Tikva.

INDEPENDENCE DAY

Sir, — Whatever our political allegiance, all of us should write to the Prime Minister's Office to protest against the proposed expenditure of NIS 250 million for the 50th Independence Day celebrations.

Our health, education and social services are disintegrating because of budget cuts. The poor get poorer, the aged go unworried by their years of work and sacrifice.

And yet with the wave of a magic wand, NIS 250m. can be produced for a project which has no long-term benefits.

We can already see it emerging: badly planned events, inflated salaries to their organizers and fifth-rate entertainers, pompous ceremonies with the same so-called leaders making self-congratulatory speeches — all charg-

ing entrance prices which make them available only to the rich and privileged.

One only has to see how the Independence Day celebrations in local neighborhoods have fizzled out over the years as local mayors replaced the spontaneous folk dancing and get-togethers of neighbors with expensive and usually inappropriate entertainers.

Readers who agree with me should write to the Prime Minister's Office protesting against this gross waste of money and suggesting projects which would be more appropriate as a lasting celebration of Israel's 50th Independence Day.

WENDY BLUMFIELD

Haifa.

The battle for tolerance

Israel is the only country in the world that denies Jews the right to practice their religion," a hopping mad Liberal rabbi told Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu during his recent visit to the Netherlands.

Netanyahu was trying to explain away the serious implications of the Conversion Bill, by which the power of the state would accord the Chief Rabbinate the final say on which conversions to Judaism are kosher and which are not.

The Dutch rabbi was exaggerating slightly. There are of course Saudi Arabia, Iraq, and Syria, for example, which also deny Jews the right to practice their religion. But his point is frighteningly valid.

The phenomenon of large numbers of people wanting to join the Jewish people is a relatively recent one, associated primarily with the rise of the State of Israel. As is usually the case with traditional religious establishments, the Orthodox rabbinate has been intransigent in resisting innovative responses to this new challenge.

Over the past decade or so more than 200,000 former Soviet new immigrants have had their Jewishness denied by the rabbinate. The same is true of the attitude of nearly all Orthodox rabbis to the Jewish identity of the entire Ethiopian community.

One of the obstacles to the aliya of many American Jews is that the rabbinate would also question the Jewishness of those who have been converted by non-Orthodox rabbis in America, and of young Jews of mixed parentage in an America where the rate of intermarriage recently passed the 50 percent mark.

Instead of adapting the hide-bound rules of conversion to these new realities the Israeli rabbinate has piled restrictions

YOSEF GOELL

upon obstacles in the way of those who want to join us, or who want to formalize their status as Jews.

In recent years an intentionally foot-dragging rabbinate has managed to convert only several hundred candidates. And these are the benighted forces who wrap themselves in the argument of Jewish unity as a basis for their demand for a monopoly over conversions.

THE debate has been couched as a confrontation between the dominant Orthodox establishment and

Now is not the time to compromise with the rabbinate

marginal Reform and Conservative elements here. Put in such terms it is only natural that politicians who live from primary to primary, and from coalition deal to deal, would back the Orthodox. Tolerance and religious pluralism leave our pragmatic politicians cold.

The real confrontation, however, is between a small Orthodox minority (less than 20% in Israel, and much less than 10% in world Jewry) and the large bulk of the Jewish people. It is not a problem that concerns only the Reform and Conservative establishments in the Diaspora with no import for Israelis.

How can one impress this view of the problem on the minds of Israeli politicians who are blithely prepared to harness the coercive power of the Jewish State to the interests of that small Orthodox rabbinical establishment, in return for a coalition mess of pottage?

Those who are alive to the importance of fostering Jewish pluralism should be encouraged to fight the battle rather than succumbing to proposals for meaningless compromise. The time for compromise among the various streams of Judaism, including the large majority of Jews who do not practice religion in any way, will come, but not before the fight for pluralistic tolerance is fought and won.

A number of Reform and Conservative congregations in the US have announced their intention of boycotting all Israeli MKs who have supported the Conversion Bill. Their counterattack should be encouraged.

Fighting back does not have to mean breaking with Israel. The majority of Israelis are as repelled by their own Orthodox rabbinate as are their Jewish brethren abroad. American Jews should be encouraged to redirect their financial support of Israel from the United Jewish Appeal to institutions and programs in Israel which foster democracy, tolerance and pluralism and which fight religious coercion. Reform and Conservative groups in the Diaspora and secular and civil-libertarian groups in Israel share a common interest.

Netanyahu's position on the conversion issue is based on his cold calculation that his reelection in 2000 will depend primarily on the massive support of the Orthodox and haredim rather than on his own Likud. Thus his support for the Conversion Bill.

His party colleagues, however, should realize that just as he sold out their interests to insure his own victory in the last election, so will he sell them out in the next election, possibly precipitating the total collapse of the Likud.

The writer comments on current affairs.

The World

In Peru, a Brilliant Rescue Shines No Light on Terror

By PHILIP SHENON

AT first blush, it seemed that last week's hostage rescue in Peru could not have been executed more brilliantly. In a lightning raid on the Japanese ambassador's residence in Lima, with Peruvian soldiers pouring into the compound through an elaborate maze of newly dug tunnels, all but one of the 72 hostages were led to safety after a four-month siege.

But did the Peruvian Government miss a chance for an even greater strike against terrorism?

Since the rescue, accusations have mounted that soldiers killed several rebels, including two teen-age girls, after they laid down their weapons and tried to surrender. Some of the corpses were mutilated; one was left without head or arms. The Peruvian newspaper *La Republica* reported that an intelligence agent who monitored the raid through listening devices heard two rebels being gunned down as they shouted, "We surrender! We surrender!"

Dead Rebels Don't Talk

There is every indication that the order given to the soldiers by President Alberto K. Fujimori was a simple one: Take no prisoners.

"I think the object was to kill them all, and that's always a mistake," said Vincent Cannistraro, a security consultant who is the former chief of counterterrorism at the Central Intelligence Agency.

"If the objective is defined simply as the rescue of hostages, then this was a major success," Mr. Cannistraro said. "But if the Peruvians had the opportunity to take prisoners and didn't, then they made an important mistake."

Putting aside the obvious questions of human rights and the rule of law — can the execution of a surrendering criminal ever be justified? — counterterrorism specialists say the Peruvians may have missed the chance to obtain valuable information from the rebels, including the identity and where-



Death opened the door for soldiers. The crater in the ambassador's living room, where the initial explosion killed several rebels.

abouts of other guerrillas.

"In the training of counterterrorism forces abroad, we always emphasized that intelligence gathering is the most important tactic," Mr. Cannistraro said of his years in the Government.

"When you kill terrorists," he continued, "you deprive yourself of the opportunity to learn about their colleagues, their movements, their support apparatus. Gathering that information should be your overriding priority."

During the vicious civil war in El Salvador in the 1980's, the United States struggled to convince the Salvadoran Army that it should end its practice of summarily executing the

anti-government rebels it captured.

American officials argued to army commanders that by killing prisoners without even a semblance of due process, the Government passed up an intelligence opportunity and, perhaps more important, fostered the perception among the guerrillas that they had only two options — to fight or to die.

That may be the perception now in Peru, which has faced insurgencies in recent years both from the Tupac Amaru and from a much larger and more ruthless guerrilla group, the Maoist-inspired Shining Path.

"That is the risk — that it will encourage the rebels to continue to fight because there is no alternative," said Brian Jenkins, a

terrorism specialist and deputy chairman of Kroll Associates, the private investigation firm. "Certainly remnants of these organizations are capable of terrorist action in the future."

There have already been threats of new terrorist attacks in Peru to avenge the death of the rebels in the Japanese compound, with rebel communiqués hailing the slain guerrillas as martyrs.

President Fujimori may have reasoned that the leftist Tupac Amaru had become so diminished as a threat in recent years that there was no point in taking prisoners, because there was nothing to be gained from the information they might share.

As a result of the raid, most of the rebel group's members are either dead or in jail; the seizure of the Japanese compound in December had been seen from the start as a desperate last-ditch gamble by the group's leader, Néstor Cerna Cartolini. He was killed in the raid, apparently shot in the head as he ran up a flight of stairs.

"The M.R.T.A. is a spent force," said Larry C. Johnson, a former deputy director of the State Department's Office of Counterterrorism, using the initials of the rebel group's name in Spanish. "The leadership is dead or locked up. They took a huge gamble

Taking no prisoners has a cost: getting no information.

In this operation, and they lost. I think this is the effective end of it."

He said that a take-no-prisoners policy was appropriate against terrorists who threatened civilian hostages.

Killing hostage takers even as they try to surrender "doesn't comport with U.S. judicial practice, but if I was in that position, I would have done the same thing," he said. "How do you know if they're really surrendering? How do you know that they're not booby-trapped? How do you know it isn't a ploy to allow them time to pull out a grenade and kill some of your buddies?"

President Fujimori has refused to say exactly what orders he gave to the 150 soldiers who carried out the hostage rescue. But after touring the rubble-strewn compound and stepping over the bullet-riddled bodies of Mr. Cerna and the other rebels, the triumphant Peruvian leader offered not a word of apology.

"We thought that the situation was deteriorating very quickly, so that at any time anything could happen," Mr. Fujimori said. "Facing an armed terrorist, none of the commandos was going to leave himself exposed."

Hong Kong Countdown

If Opportunity Knocks, They'll Be Home



The Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club.



Shopping in a fashionable boutique.



The Long March Bar in the China Club.



As China's takeover approaches, many Hong Kongers who could fly away are staying.

By EDWARD A. GARGAN

HONG KONG
IN 65 days, this free, economically vibrant territory of 6.3 million people — people accustomed to saying what they want, doing what they want and being free to make lots of money — will be surrendered to the embrace of China, a country resolutely anti-democratic, utterly intolerant of free expression and palpably indifferent to the rule of law.

One might think then, given the gathering clouds, that planes here would be packed and ships overloaded with Hong Kongers desperate to leave. On the contrary.

Most Hong Kongers who feared China have already left — those with the means. Millions of others, fearful or merely ambivalent about the change in sovereignty, have no chance of leaving, no chance of finding a new home abroad. But many who do have a choice say it is not obvious they await, but opportunity: opportunity to surf one of Asia's biggest economic waves, a wave swelling on the vast sea of China's economy. For them, it seems inevitable that Hong Kong's prosperity will endure as China's explosive economic growth and trade continue to surge through the territory.

"About two years ago we did consider emigrating, but the more we thought about it, the less attractive it became," said Regina Hui, an accounting manager with a Japanese company, whose husband is also a Hong Konger.

"Hong Kong's economy is definitely stronger than most places," she said. "You see a lot of people returning to Hong Kong after they've emigrated because they can't make much money abroad. It's obvious that Hong Kong is a better place to make a living."

Land of Opportunity

Though few places on earth have less in resources, Hong Kong has led Asia during one of the century's most dramatic periods of economic growth. Particularly since 1979, when China began transforming its economy, Hong Kong became immensely prosperous as China's gateway for foreign investment and trade. Its per capita domestic product long ago surpassed Britain's.

Even today, Hong Kong revels in Horatio Alger tales, personified daily in the business pages of its newspapers. Who here cannot recount how Li Ka-shing began his career making plastic flowers, and now is one of the globe's richest men? You may not be rich, but if anywhere will give you a chance, it is Hong Kong, goes the thinking.

"I briefly considered emigrating," Ivan Yuen, a 32-year-old advertising executive, said. "You can't say I haven't thought about it. During the height of the emigration tide, when I saw my friends leaving Hong Kong one by one, I said to myself, should I go with the trend and leave like everyone else?"

But he continued: "The world's economic focal point is on East Asia, on China. Why would I leave a place which is the financial focus of the world to go somewhere where I

Many Hong Kongers can't leave. Others are staying in the hope that China's embrace will enrich them.

can't use my skills and experience as a marketing and advertising expert?"

It is a common view, yet there are reservoirs of doubt. Fully 45 percent of Hong Kongers say they would leave if, in the words of a recent poll, "changes are unsuitable to you after 1997." But leaving may not be easy.

Britain, which has exercised sovereignty for more than a century and a half, long ago remolded the civil service into an institution of Hong Kongers; the Royal Navy inducted thousands of Hong Kongers into its ranks. Yet as it hastens to furl the Union Jack, the once-great power has been Scrooge-like in extending citizenship to the people who made this the most prosperous of its colonies. Only 50,000 Hong Kong families — barely 3 percent of Hong Kong's 6.3 million people — were granted full British citizenship and the right to settle in Britain; even Hong Kongers who served in the Royal Navy more than two

decades were denied that.

"Racism," snapped a senior British official who has long argued that his country should shoulder the responsibilities of colonialism and make everyone here full British citizens. "It's racism pure and simple. Parliament simply won't do it."

Roughly 500,000 Hong Kongers hold foreign passports, and about 190,000 more are in the process of applying for foreign citizenship, according to recent surveys.

Civil Liberties at Risk

But more than half of Hong Kongers say they have family members or close relatives living abroad, and most believe these relatives would help them leave Hong Kong — by, for example, sponsoring them in their countries — if things turned for the worse under Chinese rule. (Meanwhile, mainland Chinese continue to pour into the territory, whose population continues to grow.)

Already rumblings of unease are reverberating through Hong Kong. Three weeks ago, Beijing's choice to run Hong Kong, the shipping tycoon Tung Chee-hwa, announced that certain civil liberties — in particular the right to protest and the right to associate — would be restricted. "We need to renew our commitment to the traditional Chinese values," Mr. Tung said a few days later, explaining that those included an "emphasis on obligations rather than individual rights, and the willingness to sacrifice one's interest for the common good."

"We must constantly remind ourselves," he admonished, "that we are part of China."

At the same time, though, Mr. Tung reassured Hong Kong about its economic life, proclaiming that individual rights, deemed unnecessary in political and civic life, would of course endure in the pursuit of wealth.

"Basically, most Hong Kong people of course hope that personal liberties will be protected," said Sonny Lo Shiu Hing, a director of the Hong Kong Transition Project, an inter-university study charting public attitudes and behavior leading up to Chinese rule. "But having said that, the rolling back of civil liberties had been anticipated."

"Most people seem to opt for staying in Hong Kong because Hong Kong is politically stable and economically prosperous."

That is what even the less wealthy of Hong Kong are betting on. Far from the trading

houses, neon glare and private clubs of central Hong Kong, Heung Shu-wai presides over the Lung Wah Restaurant, just off the two lanes of blacktop that skewer Kam Tin Village. At tables covered with flimsy gray tablecloths, piled carelessly with plates of food, laborers hurry through lunches that would cost five times as much in urban Hong Kong eateries. Mr. Heung cast his eye over his harried waiters and shrugged when asked about the impending Chinese sovereignty.

"There's nothing we can do about it," he said, "so why bother talking about it? I don't think things will change all that much." Then, with a sly smile, he added, "Anyway, I'm an Australian citizen."

Like many people here, Mr. Heung has invested abroad — he owns a restaurant in Coonabarabran, New South Wales — and those investments often confer foreign citizenship. "My wife and kids are there now," he said. "I like it here, though, so I'm staying for now."

The Nation

Sign Here: Let's Pledge to Postpone the Apocalypse

By ADAM CLYMER

CONSULTING to the dignity, injurious to the interests, dangerous to the security and repugnant to the Constitution of the United States" was how the treaty was described in Richmond. "A cage constructed to coop up the American eagle" was the denunciation in Boston, where burnings in effigy were common.

No, they weren't talking about the Chemical Weapons Convention, though the level of rhetorical overkill was similar to that of last week when the Senate debated and approved the pact to ban the production, storage and use of poison gas. It was the Jay Treaty of 1795 they were talking about, a treaty that made paranoid Jeffersonians think the Federalists were trying to establish an American monarchy.

Senator Jesse Helms and his Republican friends were following a hallowed American tradition in their apocalyptic warnings. The North Carolina isolationist said, "Instead of halting the spread of poison gas, this treaty will be aiding in its proliferation." Conrad Burns of Montana declared that "Iran will be permitted to have access to our chemical secrets." Kay Bailey Hutchison of Texas called the pact "unilateral disarmament," although the United States already, during the administration of her constituent, George Bush, agreed to destroy all its stock of poison gas.

Better Wait Than Never

John Kyl of Arizona, whose opposition was at least as intense as Mr. Helms's, argued that if the treaty were ratified the United States, or other countries, would have to start helping bad countries acquire poison gas technology. Of course Mr. Kyl also offered this unusual historical view of the Senate's killing the League of Nations covenant in 1919: "I do not think there are very many people who believe this country made a mistake by waiting and creating instead the United Nations."

Treaties have always had an odd place in the American system (and indeed the American system for dealing with them often frustrates other nations, who first negotiate, cut deals and compromise with the executive branch, and then have to sit by and watch Congress decide whether to revoke the United States's word).

The extreme arguments, while they sound similar,

may have a different basis today than they did in the Republic's early years, said Joel Suley, a Cornell historian. Then, foreign affairs, and the British threat, were deeply held concerns. These days, when even primitive isolationism is a lesser force, exaggeration may be needed just to get attention for foreign affairs.

The fury over the Jay Treaty, the nation's first, was not just over its provisions and how tough or weak it was toward Britain on issues ranging from free trade to delivery of the mail. It was also over the fact that the Administration and the Federalist Senate used the treaty power (as the Constitution provided) to make law that they could not have got the House, controlled by Jefferson's Republicans, to pass.

It was the nation's first experience with that less than democratic Constitutional approach, but the same concern about elite judgments has been behind many subsequent fights over treaties. After all, not only did Jefferson warn against "entangling alliances," but even

Senate debates over treaties produce dire predictions and frustrate other nations.

George Washington, who found the Jay Treaty embarrassing, warned in his Farewell Address to "steer clear of permanent alliances with any portion of the foreign world."

The Jay Treaty, like most embattled pacts, did not produce much in the way of hyperbole from its proponents. Neither did the Chemical Weapons Convention. Senator Edward M. Kennedy of Massachusetts was most enthusiastic, saying "We can bestow a precious gift on generations to come by freeing the world of an entire class of weapons of mass destruction." Most advocates said it was no panacea, but would help in curbing and detecting the spread of these weapons.

Indeed exaggeration often comes from treaty proponents when they begin to detect a serious level of opposition. The typical argument is that not only will untold harm flow from rejection of the treaty itself, but by going back on the President's word, the Senate will



A Japanese reporter covering the Army's chemical weapons disposal plant in Tooele, Utah, last year.

make the nation unworthy of trust ever again. The 26 Republican votes against the poison gas pact were striking in this context, not only because Republicans have lately stressed the importance of following Presidents, but also because this treaty was negotiated by two of their own, Ronald Reagan and Mr. Bush.

A Rare Private Warning

But sometimes the direst warnings don't get offered publicly. Robert Pastor, an Emory University political scientist who worked in the Carter Administration, recalled last week being asked to prepare two statements

for the President to use, one if the Panama Canal treaties were approved in 1978, and one if they were rejected.

As he set to work on the rejection speech, he concluded that if the Senate spurned the treaties, Panama would blow up the canal. That argument, if offered publicly, would have seemed like cheap blackmail of the Senate and was never used publicly. Indeed, the treaties were approved, with one vote to spare, and the rejection speech was never needed.

But not long ago, memoirs from Panamanian leaders made it clear he was right in his suspicions; they planned to blow up the canal's locks. Sometimes treaty debates really do carry apocalyptic consequences.

The Parent Trap

Old Mother Hubbard Was Never a Sex Pot

By GINA KOLATA

ON April 11, at 12:05 a.m., Julia Randall was born in Manhattan's Beth Israel Hospital. The proud father, Tony Randall, age 77, announced, "I want to have another one right away."

The writer George Plimpton, at age 68, is the father of two-year-old twins. He said his babies and a tonic from the bark of pine trees that grow in the south of France are what invigorate him.

So, are these men sexy, or what? After all, they have young wives, presumably impregnated in the normal way, and what better proof is there of virility than the birth of a baby?

Compare those new parents with the 63-year-old Los Angeles woman who gave birth to a baby of her own, hiding under a cloak of anonymity. Like Mr. Randall, she had never had a baby before. But few cooed over her accomplishment (her doctors say she's the oldest woman on record to give birth). No one said she was sexy.

Those who are offended by last week's news of an old woman giving birth tend to cite reasons other than sexiness. They argue that it is not fair to the child to have two elderly parents, adding that old men who are fathers are different because they often have young wives who, presumably, will be healthy and energetic enough to raise the child. But old mothers usually come with old fathers. The husband of the 63-year-old woman was 57 when he fathered the child.

Maybe It's an Esthetic Question

But is this really an ethical question or an esthetic one? Is the issue of old mothers really about parenthood or sexiness?

Dr. David M. Buss, a psychology professor at the University of Texas at Austin, said he detects a sexual undertone to the public's reaction to the 63-year-old



Tony Randall, age 77, with his newborn, Julia.

mother. There is no question, he said, that by giving birth this woman defied not only natural rules but sexual rules.

"It's absolutely right" that sex is part of the reaction, said Dr. Barbara Koenig, an anthropologist who is executive director of the Center for Biomedical Ethics at Stanford University. It is, she said, "a typical case of how technology is challenging some fundamental assumptions," in this case, about the sexuality of older women.

In the 37 cultures Dr. Buss has studied, he said, one truth prevails: Old men who are rich or powerful have erotic power as well. It can gain them a young wife and give them an air of sexuality even when their faces are wrinkled and their eyesight dimmed. Older women are in a different category. Men are not looking for a powerful woman. What they want is youth — "smooth skin, clear skin, full lips, and a waist-hip ratio of .70," Dr. Buss said.

But it's not just a Hollywood fiction that young women often find old men — particularly rich and powerful men — sexy. Justice William O. Douglas of the Supreme Court was 76 when he married a 23-year-old woman. Senator Strom Thurmond was 66 when he took his second wife, a 22-year-old woman who was a former Miss South Carolina, Nancy Moore. Mr. Thurmond was older than his young wife's father. They had four children. "No one accused him of being a pervert," said Dr.

Movies as a Gender Guide

If movies are any guide, women are portrayed as over the hill when men are just hitting their sexual stride. Why else would men and women who are roughly the same age be cast in roles a generation apart? When Dustin Hoffman played a young college graduate in the 1967 movie "The Graduate" he was 31. The older woman, the friend of the young man's parents, was played by Anne Bancroft when she was 36. In the 1959 Alfred Hitchcock film "North by Northwest," the Cary Grant character's mother was played by Jessie Royce Landis, when she was several months younger than Mr. Grant.

There's little question that the 63-year-old woman from Los Angeles who gave birth defied not only natural rules but sexual rules too.

John Gagnon, a sociologist at the State University of New York at Stony Brook.

But power does not usually confer the glitter of sex appeal to older women. "No one is turned on by Madeleine Albright or Elizabeth Dole," Dr. Gagnon said.

"Women are primarily valued for sex and reproductive purposes," said Dr. Susan Sherwin, a professor of philosophy and women's studies at Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia. So, when they no longer are young andubile, when they no longer carry the outward signs of fertility, they are cast aside. That may explain, Dr. Sherwin said, why there is "something approaching cultural horror" when a woman past menopause moves herself back into the role of the fertile woman.

Dr. Buss said he had noticed, among his own friends and colleagues, that men react differently than women to news of the 63-year-old mother. "The women I spoke to said, 'Go for it.' The men furrowed their brows and said it was repugnant," Dr. Buss said.

His own reaction? He said, "I believe people should live their lives whatever way they want to." That, he said, is his response "on a meta-cognitive level." And on an emotional level? "I don't want to say," Dr. Buss said.

Puffed Up by Prosperity, America Struts Its Stuff

Continued From Page 1

markets. These are necessary steps, they say, en route to a richer economy that will eventually help everyone.

Others, including the Clinton Administration, would not tamper with the formula, but would repair the damage after the fact, through tax policies that redistribute income to the working poor. The earned income tax credit is an example of this approach. So is the cry for more training, so the unskilled can move to the higher end of the unequal pay system.

But is the American formula really the best model? The most comprehensive measure of success is national income per capita; that is, gross domestic product — the value of all the goods and services produced in a country in a given year — divided by the population. By that standard, according to the Labor Department's Bureau of Labor Statistics and the Organization for Economic Development and Cooperation, the United States has been the world's wealthiest country ever since World War II. No question on that score.

But from 1960 until the early 1980's, Japan

and Western Europe closed the gap. Their per capita national incomes grew faster than that of the United States. Since then, no country has gained on another, or lost ground. And in this standoff, each side in this debate sees victory.

Listen to William Lewis, director of the Global Institute at McKinsey & Company, a consulting firm. Mr. Lewis, a former Carter Administration official, has published more than one long study critical of what he describes as market obstacles in Japan, Germany and France — studies that Robert M. Solow, a Nobel laureate in economics, and other prominent economists have publicly endorsed. In the most recent, issued last month, Mr. Lewis urged, among other things, that France and Germany move toward greater deregulation and a lowering of their "comparatively high minimum wages." Income distribution, he said, should be handled through tax policies, not mandated pay scales.

The Path of Deregulation

Western Europe and Japan, Mr. Lewis said in an interview, stopped gaining ground on the

Japan and Western Europe now tinker with their formulas.

United States in per capita national income because America has moved steadily since the Carter Administration toward deregulation and unrestricted business practices, which "weed out firms that are unable to get better." He added: "The reason there is higher competitive intensity in the United States is that there are fewer restrictions on the ways businesses can organize and compete."

Such reasoning incenses Richard Freeman, a Harvard labor economist. The Japanese and Western Europeans may no longer be closing the income-per-capita gap with the United States, he says, but Americans are working longer hours to keep their lead, while the others, being more productive, are working fewer hours without losing ground. "What you don't see in national income per capita is

leisure time," Mr. Freeman said. "That gap is closing. You don't even hear anymore that the Japanese are overworked."

There are in fact flaws in all the models. The United States creates millions of new jobs, and unemployment is very low. But the highest-paid people take home growing chunks of the national income while wages at the lower end have fallen in recent years, when adjusted for inflation. No other industrial nation has had that experience.

Out of Work

The income spread is far smaller in Western Europe, but unemployment in most countries there has grown from low levels 15 years ago to double the American rate, or more. Various subsidies keep the unemployed afloat, but the young are particularly hard-hit, stunting their skills, and even in Western Europe, benefits eventually run out for those without work long enough.

The Japanese, like the Western Europeans, manage to keep wages rising across the board and more evenly distributed than the United States does. Unlike Western Europe, Japan has a low unemployment rate. That is partly

because of the Japanese resistance to layoffs and partly because most women stay out of the labor force, or drop out in hard times, while men in their 50's are often forced into retirement in greater numbers than in the West.

Given cultural and political differences, none of these labor models seem likely to change much in the foreseeable future. Protests in France, for example, stopped the Government in 1994 from lowering the minimum wage for people under 25. And in the United States, the practice of tying pay to profits or to what an employer decides a worker's performance is worth is a spreading, not a shrinking, phenomenon.

Still, deregulation is gaining ground in Japan and Western Europe — not to mimic the United States, but to move toward some middle ground. "There is a very strong feeling that something is wrong, that the cost structure is too high," said Shuzo Nakamura, chief representative in New York of the Japanese Finance Ministry. "Some people believe we have to emulate the United States but most feel we have to find our own way."

Ideas & Trends

In Nature vs. Nature, Nature May Not Win

Good Ideas



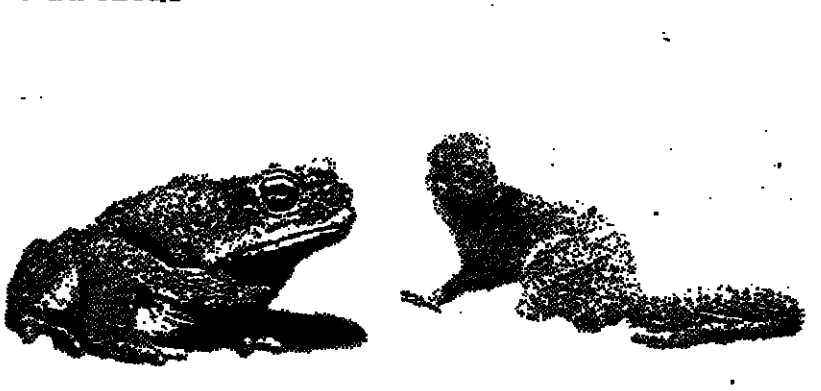
Flea Beetle

A boon against alligator weed, this insect may soon fight the spiny musk thistle.

Parasitic Wasp

This variety protects plants against aphids. Other wasps attack moths and beetles.

Bad Ideas



Cane Toad

A hopping toxic waste dump, this poisonous toad has no natural enemies.

Indian Mongoose

Imported to eat rats, this small carnivore has wiped out birds in Hawaii and the West Indies.



Tilapia

A popular weed-eating fish, this import has driven out many types of native fish.

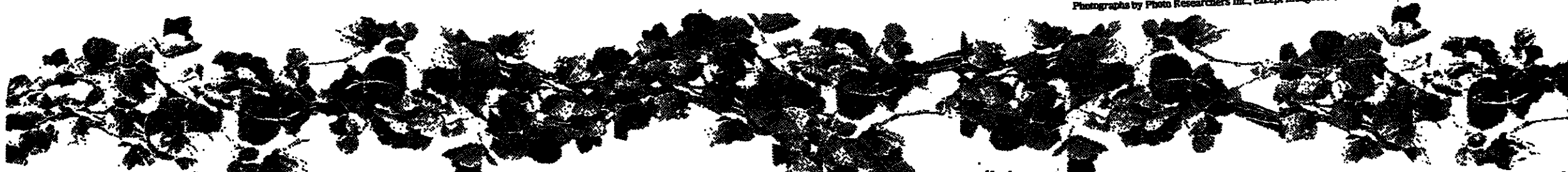
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Phorid Fly

Well tested and feeding only on fire ants, this bug may succeed where pesticides fail.

Photographs by Photo Researchers Inc., except mongoose (Animals Animals) and phorid fly (Stanford D. Porter)



By GINA MARANTO

SEVERAL weeks ago, when 170 Michigan schoolchildren were infected with hepatitis A after eating tainted strawberries imported from Mexico, the nation wondered what other viruses and bacteria might be hitching a ride across the border on foodstuffs. Microorganisms, it turns out, are but a tiny part of a growing problem. Every day hordes of foreign insects, plants, and animals infiltrate the United States.

There are 500 million plants flowing into the United States each year — about 80 percent through the Port of Miami — and tons of fresh fruit, vegetables and grains where alien insects can hide out. In Florida alone, state biologists have tallied some 1,300 established alien plant species, some of which have despoiled uncounted acres.

Today the scale of the international traffic in flora and fauna is so vast — and the resulting hazards to agriculture and ecosystems potentially so great — that there is a whole branch of science devoted to the militaristic sounding study of "invasion biology."

How, then, should one react to the news that scientists, in an attempt to deal with what are variously called aliens, immigrants, xenophytes or, simply, introduced species, are opting to bring in still more exotic species? Isn't this foolhardy?

For example, the United States Department of Agriculture is about to do a controlled release of the snout beetle near Loxahatchie to try to get rid of the

Gina Maranto is the author of "Quest for Perfection" and writes often on ecological topics.

Australian melaleuca, a tree which is spreading across the Everglades at a rate of about 35 acres a day, forming dense thickets that crowd out native plants. The snout beetle, also known as the melaleuca weevil, is one of the most tested bugs in history, so it probably won't wind up eating mahogany or palms instead of melaleuca.

But the snout beetle isn't the only foreign bug that is being drafted to gobble up a pest. Researchers in Gainesville, Florida have finished up Brazilian field tests of a parasitic fly, the phorid fly, that can kill non-native fire ants, which have decamped in 11 southern states, by laying eggs upon the ants' bodies. The researchers hope to do outdoor tests in Gainesville this summer and then to turn the flies loose in nature.

Spectacular Goofs

This strategy, known as biological control — fighting nature with nature — has had some spectacular failures. Take the cane toad. Imported by Australia in the 1930's to oblige sugar cane growers — against the dire advice of a naturalist named Walter W. Froggatt — the poisonous cane toad was meant to get rid of a beetle that was devastating the sugar cane crops. However, explains herpetologist Walter Meshaka, Jr., supervisory curator at the Everglades Museum, "Beetles fly at night and were inaccessible to the toads." So the voracious toads ate everything else, having a field day in an under-exploited niche. Soon 182 toads turned into a trillion.

Or think of that staple of ecology textbooks, the Indian mongoose, which Hawaii imported to eat rats that were overrunning cane fields. Between 1883 and 1885, the mammals were brought in, leading not only to a

small drop in the rat population but to the destruction of ground-nesting native birds throughout the islands. Then there was Kudzu. Although not technically a biocontrol agent, this Japanese plant was planted across the American South during the 1930's as an erosion buster; it now blankets whole landscapes, ruining native habitats. Or recall the arrival of tilapia, a fish meant to take care of hydrilla, a runaway exotic aquatic plant that clogs Florida waterways: The tilapia didn't make a major dent in the problem they were supposed to solve but they did manage to drive out native fish, especially large-mouth bass, the prime freshwater sport fish.

It is cases like these that make ecologists frown on using vertebrates and amphibians as controls. Yet there have been successes, cases where insects imported to take care of a runaway colleague or an invasive plant have done their work, with limited impact on other species. Parasitic wasps have proved helpful in California's orchards. Beetles from Europe and northern Africa have pushed Klamath weed out of some five million acres of rangeland in the West. In the South, flea beetles have thwarted alien alligator weed.

Peter Room, an entomologist at the Center for Tropical Pest Management in Brisbane, Australia, has had successes all over the world with a Brazilian beetle. First he cleared 500 acres in Lake Moondarra of a free-

floating aquatic species called *Salvinia modesta*. Then, he introduced the beetle to Sri Lanka, India, Zambia, Kenya, Fiji and Malaysia. When the costs and benefits of the Sri Lanka project were tallied, the return for every \$1 spent was \$33, and farmers were saved 1,673 hours of clearing *salvinia* for every hour of work by scientists.

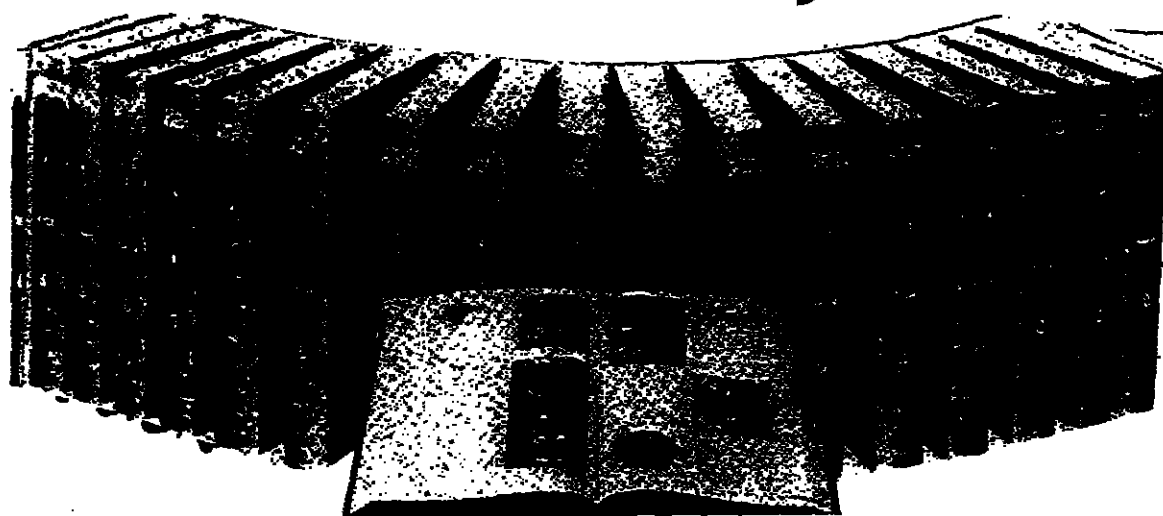
It's no wonder that in the 1960's, biological controls were touted as the "green" alternative to pesticides and herbicides. But now the supporters of biocontrols are duking it out with skeptical ecologists over what "success" and "safety" really mean. And some former supporters of biological controls, notably Daniel Simberloff, a biologist at Florida State University, have changed their minds. Mr. Simberloff suggests that the impact of biocontrols on natural systems has not been adequately assessed and they should be a last resort.

Of course, as the ecologists are battling it out, exotic species that are not part of any controlled program are coming to our shores every day, with the possibility of wreaking havoc. In its 1993 report the Office of Technology Assessment said the nation spends at least hundreds of millions of dollars each year to extirpate exotic species that endanger native species or threaten agriculture.

Unintended Consequences

Biocontrols are, naturally, also subject to the law of unintended consequences. Even though scientists may know a fair amount about an ecosystem, they can never predict with complete accuracy what will happen when they release a new exotic species. But after all is said and done, taking a considered risk may be better than sitting around while the invading hordes run riot.

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The Politics Of Another Political Trial

Continued From Page 1

plore the motivations of Mr. McVeigh and his alleged connections to far-right groups, there are predictions that the conservative movement may once again be subject to what Robert Holsworth, director of the Center for Public Policy at Virginia Commonwealth University, calls "guilt by rhetorical association."

Stuart Rothenberg, editor of the Washington-based Rothenberg Political Report, said the question of whether a would-be terrorist could possibly be inflamed by strident anti-government oratory was likely to be asked once again, perhaps subtly and perhaps not. "I certainly expect to see some Democrats and liberals, individuals or groups, once again raising these issues, at least to see what kind of reaction they get," he said.

But, said Mr. Holsworth, "my sense is that all this is very unlikely to come up in quite the same way it did in 1995, because the mood has changed so drastically in this country."

"The Republicans aren't preaching revolution anymore," he added. "In a way, the debate over what ought to be the dominant political mode in American politics is over. Those who had this strident, revolutionary, anti-government line have lost that debate, even though they might have won on a lot of the policy issues." Mr. Clinton and many Democrats may have taken up many signature conservative issues, said Mr. Holsworth, but "almost everything that's done now is under the rhetorical dress of bringing Americans together."

Out of Sight

Of course, it's possible that not that many Americans will be paying attention. Stephen Hess, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution in Washington, said: "This trial hasn't yet become an issue that has truly engaged the public. We are always looking for the next big trial. It's like the next big wave if you're a surfer. This could be it, this should be it, but it isn't yet."

Mark Mellman, a political consultant in Washington, said public interest was likely to be limited because the trial is not being televised. "It's one thing to be glued to the Watergate hearings live, or to O. J. Simpson live," he said. "It's another thing to be glued to artist's sketches of the trial or reports in a newspaper. It's harder to engage people's attention day after day, week after week, when there aren't cameras in the courtroom."

Even if the trial does captivate the public, perhaps with revelations that the Government bungled the evidence, many experts doubt that its conduct will become a rallying cry, as it was, for instance, in the siege of the Branch Davidians near Waco — the very incident that the prosecutors say spurred Mr. McVeigh to terrorism.

"I can't believe that any mainstream conservatives would let themselves get into a position where they seem in any conceivable way to be apologizing for or extenuating the deeds of McVeigh," said Mr. Kristol.

ECONOMY

A Grand Old Guru Still Favors Emerging Markets

Legendary Investor John Templeton Made His Reputation by Looking Abroad to Find Value.

By SETH SCHIESEL

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. JOHN M. TEMPLETON is known variously as a dean, a knight and a near saint, not always in that order. But he was certainly a dean first. The dean, that is, of international investing. Since beginning his first mutual fund, Templeton Growth, in 1954, Mr. Templeton has forged a reputation as one of the premier value investors — one who has looked abroad for bargains, earlier and more successfully than many of his peers.

Mr. Templeton, now 84, retired from professional money management in 1992, when he sold his first to Franklin Resources Inc. for \$913 million. But his words still move markets. After he uttered the phrase

"bear market" at an investment conference earlier this month, the Dow recoiled. When asked for after a charity event here, he said that United States stocks are very high-priced and that he sees more value in Treasury bonds. Abroad, though, he sees stock markets with promise.

A native of Tennessee, Mr. Templeton moved to the Bahamas in the early 1960's, became a British citizen in 1967 and became Sir John in 1987, in recognition of his religious philanthropy. Mr. Templeton, a devout Presbyterian, endowed the Templeton Prize for Progress in Religion, now worth about \$1.2 million a year, in 1972. Past recipients include Mother Teresa and Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn.

Instead of managing money, Mr. Templeton now spends most of his time managing more than 60 charities. He made time to answer some market-related questions recently after speaking to the Palm Beach Round Table, a civic group.

Q. I understand you're investing in Treasuries, too. Why?

A. Throughout a large part of my investment career, particularly during World War II, no Treasury bond ever yielded over 2½ percent. So when I see Treasury bonds yielding 7½ percent, I think that's very good. Also, at that time there was great worry about inflation. Now our worry about inflation is less, so Treasuries should yield less, not more.

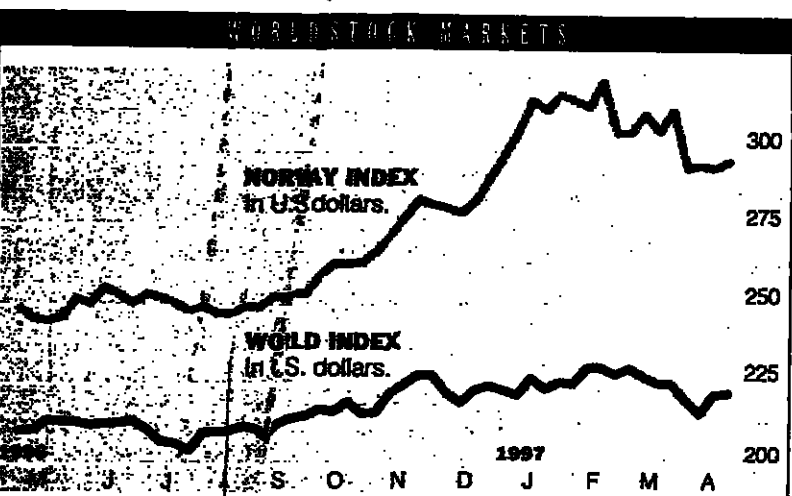
It's clear that the Federal Reserve wants to have high interest rates on Treasury bonds and everything else to prevent excess enthusiasm in the business boom, which is fine. It's the right thing to do. But it does put the Treasury bonds at too high a yield. So sooner or later, maybe a year or two, I think Treasuries will yield no more than 5 percent, maybe less. If they yield 5 percent, the price of long-term Treasuries would go up 30 percent.

Inflation has been a worry in 90 percent of the nations 90 percent of the time. But it's less of a worry now than it was most of this century. My best guess is that it would take inflation 30 years to double the cost of living. On that basis, you would still have earnings of 5 percent net after inflation on Treasuries you bought today.

In 1947, one of my major clients offered to bet me even more money that no U.S. Treasury bond would ever yield over 2½ percent.



John Templeton says his theory on investing is to "look for the points of maximum pessimism."



Prepared by Goldman, Sachs & Co. using data derived from the Financial Times/Standard & Poor's Actuaries World Index, a measure of stock market performance. The FT Indexes are compiled jointly by The Financial Times Limited, Goldman, Sachs & Co. and Standard & Poor's, in conjunction with the Institute of Actuaries and Faculty of Actuaries.

PERFORMANCE		IN U.S. DOLLARS		IN LOCAL CURR.	
Country	Index	% Chg.	Rank	Index	% Chg.
Australia	224.2	1.7	3	1.0	13
Austria	181.9	0.9	9	4.2	21
Belgium	237.5	0.9	10	4.3	5
Brazil	243.4	2.9	1	28.3	1
Britain	282.0	0.6	14	0.4	17
Canada	184.5	0.5	15	2.8	19
Denmark	360.7	1.6	5	2.5	11
Finland	252.3	2.0	2	2.7	9
France	210.0	1.1	22	1.9	18
Germany	197.7	0.2	17	4.1	6
Hong Kong	455.7	0.7	12	10.1	23
Indonesia	229.5	0.9	8	0.6	14
Ireland	330.0	0.7	21	0.4	15
Italy	86.2	1.8	23	3.3	7
Japan	114.8	1.7	4	11.0	24
Malaysia	535.4	1.9	24	11.2	25
Mexico	1,363.4	0.2	19	11.8	3
Netherlands	346.6	0.8	11	3.1	8
New Zealand	85.20	0.0	18	7.2	22
Norway	296.08	0.7	13	0.2	16
Philippines	173.54	3.2	27	14.8	27
Singapore	371.33	2.9	26	11.6	26
South Africa	357.11	0.4	16	12.1	2
Spain	223.31	1.4	6	1.6	12
Sweden	409.78	2.8	25	2.9	20
Switzerland	263.17	1.0	7	10.3	4
Thailand	79.68	3.8	28	16.8	28
United States	309.52	0.4	20	2.5	10

COMPOSITE INDICES		IN U.S. DOLLARS		IN LOCAL CURR.	
Index	% Chg.	Rank	Index	% Chg.	Rank
Europe	243.45	0.2	1.6	2.78	11.1
Pacific Basin	133.62	1.3	10.1	1.39	4.3
Europe/Pacific	179.41	0.7	3.8	2.17	3.9
World	222.91	0.2	0.6	2.06	3.3

EXCHANGE RATES		Friday		Last Friday		Week % Chg.		Year Ago	
Japanese yen to the U.S. dollar		126.25		125.85		+0.31		105.45	
German marks to the U.S. dollar		1.7270		1.7102		+0.98		1.5285	
Canadian dollars to the U.S. dollar		1.3967		1.3995		-0.20		1.3610	
U.S. dollars to the British pound		1.6231		1.6331		-0.61		1.5120	

Source: Bloomberg Financial Markets; exchange rates as of Friday's New York close.

ed out fairly young saying that I was going to buy based on value rather than trend, or price, that I was searching for good values instead of seeing what was going to move up or down.

Common sense will tell you that the only time you can get something for a small fraction of what it's worth is when other people are despondently selling. So it's been a new theory of mine, the theory of maximum pessimism. If you want to succeed in selecting investments, look for the points of maximum pessimism.

Q. Many foreign markets seem to be moving in tandem with United States markets. Does that make diversification less important these days?

A. Yes, but it's a very small trend. If

'Over half of my clients' money was in Japan at one time,' says John Templeton, 'but no longer.'

you go back and put down the world's large markets, it's very rare to have more than two of them going in the same direction. It's amazing. We've drawn charts like that, and most of the time, out of 15 markets, there will be only 1 or 2 that are at all-time highs. At the same time, two or three are at all-time lows.

Q. Do you still think that emerging markets offer better opportunities than the developed world?

A. Yes, I do. There are still lots of emerging markets in the world where prices are modest: China, India, New Zealand, Korea.

Q. What are your feelings on Russia?

A. It's certainly not the bargain it was a year and a half ago. Many of the funds that specialize in Russia have gone up 150 percent in just 18 months. But Russia is a big nation, the people are intelligent, they are getting better organized and the Government is continuing to favor freedom, or free enterprise. All of those would indicate that even at today's prices it'll prove to be one of the best markets if you hold for five years.

Q. What about the rest of Eastern Europe?

A. Well, there are even better bargains in Slovakia, the Czech Republic and Turkey.

But the best bargains of all, now, are in Ukraine. You can buy shares in the few companies that trade —

at an average of only four or five times earnings.

Q. Which emerging markets do you think are over these days?

A. Share prices are much higher than in other nations now in Malaysia, with a price-earnings ratio of 23, the Philippines, with a P.E. of 21 and Taiwan, with a P.E. of 33.

Q. With regard to more developed countries, where are you seeing the most important opportunities these days?

A. There aren't many points of maximum pessimism in the developed markets. The closest I could come would be New Zealand as a developed market. And I'd put Chile in that area.

Q. Though it's certainly not an emerging market, what do you think about Japan?

A. Over half of my clients' money was in Japan at one time, but no longer. When the bargains were there, we paid an average of only four times that year's earnings for stocks. Then they went up to 100 times earnings. They're still about 50 times earnings. So it's cheaper than it was, but I have not started to buy more. I would buy in Japan at 15 times earnings.

Q. What about currency risk?

A. Generally speaking, currency risks are the smallest they've been in 60 years, because there's less war, there's less revolution, there's less socialism.

But there is still currency risk, particularly in those places with no stock market. If you'd limit me to the places with stock markets, currency risk is great in Turkey, Thailand and Brazil.

Q. What's your sense of the money management business today?

A. People who have not lived through a severe bear market don't worry enough; they don't understand it enough. So those people who've only been in Wall Street less than eight years are underestimating how bad it can get.

Some are worried, but in general all the Wall Street operatives are not as worried as

they ought to be. They ought, for example, to look at Japan. After the highest prices were passed in Japan, the market went down about 60 percent. The mutual funds lost half of their shareholders.

Q. Which particular sectors in the United States look attractive to you right now?

A. There aren't any common stocks that I'd put in that category at present in this country.

Q. I know you don't like to predict what's going to happen in the markets but what's the one thing investors should keep their eyes on in the next year?

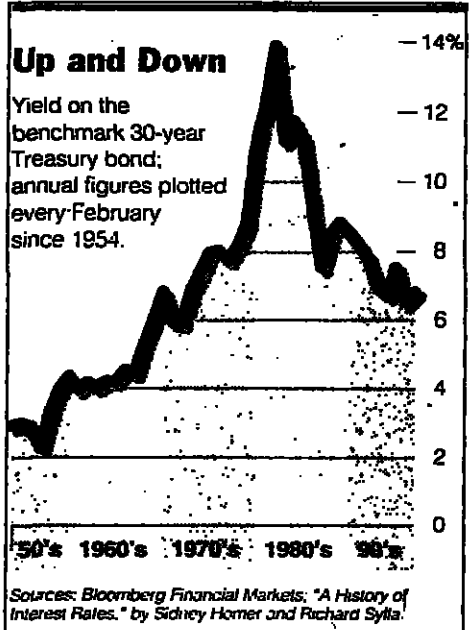
A. I would advise people not to buy a stock whose price-earnings ratio is higher than the average ratio for that same company for the last 10 years. What happens in a period like this is more and more enthusiasm builds up and stocks that used to sell for 10 times earnings now sell for 20 times earnings. And that's the main source of people losing money in the market.

Q. You've put most of your time recently into various charities. What's the overarching goal of the Templeton Foundation?

A. In general, more than other foundations, we focus on removing the causes of troubles in the world rather than on alleviating the results. Most foundations focus on feeding the poor, or healing the sick. We focus more on who is inventing a method so you don't get sick in the first place or a farming technique that will help feed the poor.

Q. Do you have an example in mind?

A. Our program in medical schools. There are 126 four-year graduate schools of medicine in America. One of my foundations paid for a survey two and a half years ago and couldn't find a single medical school offering a course in spiritual healing. By offering small cash awards to the teacher and the school, 30 schools are going to offer a course next year in spiritual healing. I think that's absolutely marvelous.



Source: Bloomberg Financial Markets; "A History of Interest Rates," by Sidney Homer and Richard Sylla.

April 21-25: After Posting the Second-Highest Point Gain Ever, the Dow Retreats

DOMESTIC EQUITIES		DOMESTIC BONDS	
Broad market S. & P. 500 index	Down 0.13% 765.37	Treasuries	Down 0.43% 192.29
Blue chips Dow 30 Industrials	Up 0.53% 6,738.87	Municipals	Down 0.60% 113.13
Small capitalization Russell 2000 index	Down 1.72% 335.85	Corporates	Down 0.42% 842.40

AROUND THE WORLD	
European stocks F.T.-Actuaries Europe	Up 0.20% 243.45
Asian stocks F.T.-Actuaries Pacific Basin	Up 1.27% 133.62
Gold New York cash price	Up 0.15% \$343.90

BONDS	
Long bonds	7.14%
30-year Treasuries	Up 9 basis pts.
Notes	6.53%
2-year Treasuries	Up 16 basis pts.
Municipals	5.98%
Bond Buyer index	Up 2 basis pts.

OTHER INVESTMENTS	
Money market funds	4.94%
Taxable average	Up 1 basis pt.
Bank C.D.'s	5.20%
1-year small savers	Up 1 basis pt.
Stocks	1.99%
S. & P. 500 dividend yield	Unchanged



Sources: Bank Rate Monitor, Bloomberg Financial Markets; The Bond Buyer; Datastream; Goldman, Sachs; IBC's Money Fund Report; Merrill Lynch; Standard & Poor's; Ryan Labs

The New York Times

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Sugar's Sweet Deal

An unlikely Congressional pair — Charles Schumer, a liberal New York Democrat, and Dan Miller, a conservative Florida Republican — has begun a fresh effort to phase out America's archaic sugar price support program. The program has enriched domestic sugar growers at the expense of ordinary consumers and, in some cases, the environment. Scientists believe that the Florida sugar cane industry's rapid growth over the last 30 years, underwritten in part by the support program, has damaged the ecology of central and southern Florida, including Everglades National Park and Florida Bay, by interrupting the natural flow of clean water.

The present sugar support program was written into law in 1981. In simplest terms, it uses a combination of price supports, special loans and restrictions on imports to prop up the cost of sugar. The domestic raw sugar price of 21 cents a pound is about double the world price. This translates into high retail prices that, according to the General Accounting Office, cost consumers \$1 billion a year. The Miller-Schumer bill would reduce the price support in stages and end it altogether in 2003. It would also encourage heavier imports. A similar bill was narrowly defeated in the House last year after ferocious lobbying by the industry.

The support program has kept some marginal producers in business while producing big profits for more efficient companies. The most conspicuous example of the latter is Flo-Sun, a huge operation north of the Everglades controlled by two brothers, Alfonso and Jose Fanjul, Cuban exiles who fled Castro and rebuilt their sugar empire in Florida with help from Washington's price supports. The G.A.O. estimates that in one year the sugar subsidy sent about \$65 million directly to the Fanjuls' bottom line. Given their obvious interest in keeping the subsidy program alive, the Fanjuls are lavish contributors to politicians in both parties — giving

as much as \$3 million since 1979, by one estimate.

The industry has already begun its counterattack on Miller-Schumer. It calls the bill "a bullet in the brain," and warns that if the subsidy disappears, so will domestic producers and the thousands of workers they employ. The Florida cane growers' most energetic spokesman, Robert Buker of U.S. Sugar, Flo-Sun's biggest rival, argues that nobody can compete with foreign governments that dump sugar on world markets at artificially low prices.

But many independent economists think the industry exaggerates the potential damage. For one thing, Miller-Schumer's gradual phase-out will allow time for adjustments. Second, during the phase-out, and even after the price supports disappear completely, the Federal Government will still have powerful tools under existing trade laws to prevent dumping or unfair foreign competition.

The industry is right that there will be casualties. Operations in Hawaii, California and Texas that barely survive now will probably go out of business. Florida companies, the most efficient cane growers, may find some of their poorer lands are no longer profitable and take them out of production.

Environmentally, that could be beneficial. Economists estimate that perhaps one-fifth of the 450,000 acres now under cultivation might be at risk when the subsidy disappears. As it happens, that is about the same number of acres that the Federal Government and the state of Florida would like to buy to use as storage areas to replenish the water-starved Everglades and as water-treatment areas to clean up polluted runoff from the cane fields.

Ending the sugar subsidy will not kill the sugar industry. It will, however, continue to speed the process begun in last year's farm bill of moving American agriculture to a free market. It is also likely to give South Florida's beleaguered environment a happier future.

A United Front Against Iran

Now that a German court has found Iranian leaders responsible for the murder of Kurdish dissidents in Berlin, America no longer stands alone in condemning Teheran for exporting terrorism. The next step is to develop an effective international response to Iran's threatening behavior. Teheran is also engaged in covert plans to develop nuclear weapons and works to disrupt Mideast peace efforts. It openly flouts the most minimal rules needed to maintain international peace and security.

The European Union's decision to summon most of its ambassadors from Teheran for consultations was welcome but inadequate. Europe, more dependent on Mideast oil imports than the United States, has been reluctant to apply economic or diplomatic pressure against Iran. Tougher measures are now in order, including tighter restrictions on military transfers and limiting the travel privileges of Iranian diplomats, many of whom abuse their status to promote terror. China and Russia, which respectively have been providing Iran with missiles and nuclear energy technology, must also be persuaded to exercise restraint.

The German court concluded that the 1992 Berlin murders had been ordered by a secretive "Committee for Special Operations" consisting of Iran's top political and spiritual leadership. That suggests that a string of other murders of Iranian

political exiles and Kurdish dissidents may also have been commissioned by Iranian leaders.

The United States, which has banned American companies from trading with or investing in Iran since 1995, is the only major economic power now imposing sanctions. Europe's unwillingness to help has undermined the sanctions and unfairly disadvantaged American companies. Since the American embargo took effect, European companies have picked up America's lost business.

The European Union is set to consider its own sanctions against Iran this week. An American-style ban on trade and investments would dry up the revenues Iranian leaders use to finance terrorism and weapons buying. At the very least, Europe should consider banning sales of military-related technology and restricting diplomatic visas. Washington must also persuade Russia and China to avoid irresponsible arms and technology transfers.

Nearly two decades after the Ayatollah Khomeini swept away the Shah's pro-American dictatorship, Iran's Government is still driven by revolutionary fervor. A distorted sense of Islamic mission endangers neighboring countries and threatens perceived enemies in Europe and beyond. Sanctions will not change that attitude overnight. But the world is obliged to do all it can to minimize the multiple dangers presented by Teheran.

Editorial Notebook

Hating It Because It Is True

Autobiography was once dominated by famous people who summed up their lives near the end — largely to beat biographers to the punch. The best-seller lists and the Oprah show tell a different story today. The market is teeming with tenderfoot memoirs by ordinary Janes and Joes, many of them scarcely out of their 30's. That readers consume these books by the gross makes it clear that the memoir is seizing ground once held by the novel. The presumption that only a novelist's gift can transform life into literature has clearly been put to rest.

Younger novelists have joined the memoir trend. But hard-core traditionalists have denounced it as a blight on literature and a turn toward self-indulgence and exhibitionism. This is curious indeed, given that novels and memoirs are often so closely related as to be interchangeable. First novels in particular are often no more than thinly veiled personal histories. In addition, the best memoirs use fictional techniques — and could easily pass for novels if the writers wanted to call them that. In other words, what distinguishes many memoirs from fiction is that memoirs own up to being true.

The rivalry between novelists and memoir writers came into focus earlier this month, at an Authors Guild forum in Manhattan. The moderator was Frank Conroy, whose 1967 memoir "Stop-Time," the story of a fatherless boy's struggle through adolescence, was one of the first nonfiction works to ratify a child's-eye view. Mr. Conroy helped introduce into nonfiction the stylistic and narrative strategies traditionally found in novels. The book attracted a cult following, and paved the way for several acclaimed works, including Geoffrey Wolff's "Duke of Deception," his brother Tobias's "This Boy's Life" and Mary Karr's "Liar's Club." The best memoirs could be called nonfiction novels. As these books have succeeded, writers who once would have couched personal histories as fiction have stopped dissembling.

Speaking at the forum, the historical novelist Tom Mallon said that novels were inherently about "larger

The Backlash Against the Memoir

truths," while memoirs were about personal ones. But what's obvious is that the devilish little girl in "The Liar's Club" is every little girl. That she bears the author's name makes her no less compelling or universal.

Some novelists declined to participate, perhaps because they viewed memoirs as an inferior form and wished not to say so publicly for fear of causing a stir. The novelist William Gass has no such fear. His blistering essay "The Art of Self," published three years ago in Harper's, has become a flashpoint for memoir haters and practitioners. For Mr. Gass, biography is only acceptable when produced by some mythical neutral observer. He sees memoirs as "tainted with conceit" and the impulse to preen for posterity.

But novelists suffer this ailment as well. Even the most respected of them have kidnapped enemies into their pages, trashing spouses, lovers and rivals — while hiding behind the label of fiction. Memoir writers drop the pretense, which makes the narrative more honest and often more compelling.

Ideas that breeze by as fiction can cause explosions when presented as fact. The novelist Kathryn Harrison proves this case. She was praised for her novel "Thicker Than Water," which told of an incestuous affair between the central character and her father. But the same story has brought venom and vilification when presented as fact in her memoir, "The Kiss." Some critics took issue with Ms. Harrison's craftsmanship, suggesting that she had thoughtlessly repackaged old material to make money. But the most aggressive critics seemed to condemn her for telling the truth about such a viscerally disturbing subject.

It has become popular to dismiss memoir as a way of peddling misery to a voyeuristic public. But what's at play here is a prejudice that regards fiction as more literary than nonfiction narrative writing. That may have been true in other times, but given the stylistic kinship that now links novels and memoirs, that prejudice is no longer supportable. BRENT STAPLES

Election Law Guarantees Partisan Commission

To the Editor:

You are right to insist that President Clinton appoint members to the Federal Election Commission who are able to enforce the law impartially ("A Stronger F.E.C.," editorial, April 23). But the problem is not simply with those who appoint the commissioners — the problem is with the law.

Because the F.E.C.'s charge is to regulate the same politicians who oversee it, it is unable either to stop violations of the law when they are in progress or impose meaningful punishment after they occur.

The F.E.C. operates under a legal

structure that virtually guarantees a partisan commission.

There is no nonpartisan process for recommending commissioners nor are there term limits.

Further, an even number of voting commissioners virtually guarantees a partisan deadlock on controversial issues.

Because penalties for violating the law tend to be severe for donors but relatively light for politicians, current law also deprives the F.E.C. of a powerful deterrent. Worse, its ability to function is placed each year at the mercy of Congressional appropriators, so the agency lacks the inde-

pendence it needs to be a meaningful regulator.

I am drafting legislation that will address these problems by requiring the F.E.C.'s structural defects, stiffening penalties for politicians who break the law and improving public access to campaign-finance data. Record numbers of Americans are not participating in the democratic process because they have little faith in its integrity. It is time Congress put itself at risk and created a truly independent agency that will enforce the law. BOB KENNEDY

U.S. Senator from Nebraska
Washington, April 23, 1997

In Today's Museums, the Story Is Central

To the Editor:

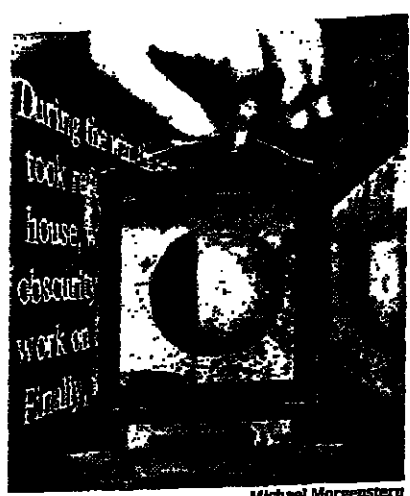
Re your April 20 Week in Review piece "Museums That Tell What to Think": The major shift in museum exhibition over the last 20 years is not toward the idea of the "message," which has always played a dominant role. Curators always had a message to impart, but seldom had a story to tell.

For better or worse, the story is now central, and objects are displayed to illustrate this story. The editing of collections to eliminate anomalies and confusion and push objects and information into the framework of stories may result in a trade-off of richness for clarity.

I hope that the designers of exhibitions will learn to expand the idea of the exhibition narrative to encompass both more personal authorship and the possibility of ambiguity. Imagine an exhibit that mimicked a trial presenting several views of a story in juxtaposition to one another.

If rich detail is now lost in the telling of stories, the need is to find a way to rescue it, not to eliminate the story as a framework for exhibitions. JANE BEDNO

Philadelphia, April 21, 1997
The writer is director of the graduate program in museum exhibition planning at the University of the Arts.



Michael Morgenstern

To the Editor:

If Arnold Lehman, the Brooklyn Museum's new director, wants to draw bigger crowds to the museum ("The Art of Collecting Diverse Crowds," Arts pages, April 24), he might begin by revising the Egyptian exhibit information to include the answer to the question he had as a child, and which later visitors raised: that the figures' noses are missing because of years of wear and tear. BARBARA J. ALEXANDER

Belmont, Mass., April 24, 1997

Peruvian Rebels Wanted Justice, Not Violence

To the Editor:

Re "At the Moment of Truth, Rebels Resolve Failed" (front page, April 24), about the Peruvian hostage rescue: The guerrillas' refusal to assassinate their hostages demonstrates their humanity rather than any type of "failure." They could have taken many lives with them as the Peruvian soldiers stormed the compound, but instead chose to limit the bloodshed to themselves and the military. Had they been more ruthless, the world would be condemning President Alberto Fujimori's foolhardy gamble rather than applauding a bold military victory.

While the media persistently re-

ferred to the guerrillas as terrorists, reports of their behavior showed them to be sensitive, intelligent individuals who realized that, sadly, peaceful avenues for change do not exist in their country.

The desperation of the embassy takeover reflects the lack of democratic methods of transformation in Peru. In sparing their hostages at the "moment of truth," the rebels affirmed that they wanted progress rather than violence. TED LEWIS

Brooklyn, April 24, 1997

From Lake to Lake

To the Editor:

Your photo in the news article "Off on Their Horizon, North Dakota Farmers See Little but Disaster" on April 24 shows the Red River as a lake. The Red River in fact flows on the bed of the former glacial Lake Agassiz, which existed only 8,000 to 10,000 years ago when glacial ice in Canada dammed the outflow of the lake north into the Arctic Ocean.

The glacial floor (now loess) and the lake-bottom clays will slow the percolation of the floodwater into the pore spaces of the underlying rocks. Fortunately, the people in this part of our country are patient, and understand that nature works on long cycles. DAVID M. HUTCHISON

Oneonta, N.Y., April 24, 1997
The writer is a professor of geology at Hartwick College.

Feeding Children Well Saves U.S. Money

To the Editor:

Congress will have no trouble cutting the Women-Infants-Children program, and "budget confusion" will have nothing to do with it ("Protecting Infant Nutrition," editorial, April 24). The real reason is that the people who vote and the people we elect do not perceive that a healthy population in the future is more important than saving money now. When World War II draftees had to be turned down for service because of malnutrition, we got the school lunch program.

We are so obsessed with saving our middle-class children from having to pay an enormous national debt that we choose to overlook the future costs of malnutrition. We seem to believe that the problem will go away if we ignore it. It will not, and neither will the malnourished children. BERNICE SISSON

Swarthmore, Pa., April 24, 1997

To the Editor:

Your April 24 editorial in support of the WIC program correctly notes that many studies show the program meets its objectives of reducing in-

fant mortality and important neonatal medical problems. There are other important benefits. When I was the director of the Seattle-King County Department of Health in the 1970's, I used the WIC program to recruit women of modest economic means and their children into other health-promotion activities.

The milk, juice, eggs, and so on were a "loss leader" by which the women and children were brought into the clinics, where they received immunizations, family-planning counseling, nutrition education, well-child care and other services important to their health and that of the community. It would indeed be tragic if Congress can't recognize a bargain. LAWRENCE BERGNER, M.D.

Washington, April 24, 1997

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Economic Growth Doesn't Need a Cure

To the Editor:

Norbert Walter ("The Cure for Growth" Op-Ed, April 21) advises U.S. policy makers to brake growth to fight inflation by cutting the budget instead of raising interest rates. Business investment will be greater, he says, blessing the economy with higher productivity in the long run. He accepts uncritically the dubious premise that present growth is something we need to cure one way or another. He disregards a third way to cut demand, reduce budget deficits and fight inflation. This is to raise taxes. Mr. Walter to the contrary, tax cuts appear inevitable in 200 budget-balancing plans, tightening the squeeze on outlays.

For all Mr. Walter knows, the expenditure he encourages Congress to cut may be more valuable to the nation than marginal consumption spending of taxpayers, on gasoline and tobacco, for example. For all he knows, public investments in education, science, health, infrastructure and environment are worth more to future Americans than the private investments his lower interest rates might encourage. JAMES TOBIN

New Haven, April 22, 1997
The writer is Sterling Professor of Economics emeritus at Yale.

Versions of the Past

To the Editor:

Thank you Sean Wilentz ("The Past Is Not a Process," Op-Ed, April 20) for his articulate advocacy of learning a discipline before exercising its prerogatives. Of course we must be wary of bias in the material presented by children as "fact." But social studies seems bent on presenting bias denuded of provable fact, which is dangerous for society.

Those of us who engage in historical work are already confronted with what can be taught as "diachronic diversity" different approaches to the world aptly by widely varying cultures and societies of the past. Perhaps thinking of it this way would help rehabilitate history in the schools. YNTHIA MUNRO PYLE

New York, April 21, 1997

Tiger's True Colors

To the Editor:

Enough already about the racial blend of Tiger Woods! Who cares (letter, April 21)? When Tiger won the Masters, he showed his true colors — red, white and blue.

And then he won the green. ALAN R. LOFLIN

New York, April 24, 1997

Ex-Friends of Clinton

To the Editor:

"The Growing List: Ex-Friends of Bill" (Weel in Review, April 20) seeks to make President Clinton's personnel changes seem sinister.

While I know nothing about the President's personal friendships, I know from hearing Peter Edelman speak at Oberlin College that he is still a friend of the Clinton Administration.

He, he resigned as Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services to protest the President's signature on the welfare "reform" bill, but he urged his audience to support their Administration policies and participate in national politics even though some laws that Congress passes and the President signs are bad. Your cynical article needlessly discourages such participation. CAROL GANZEL

Berlin, Ohio, April 21, 1997

Senior Citizen Mothers?

To the Editor:

Although enabling a woman nearing her 6th birthday to bear a child (front page, April 24) may be a medical tour de force, it is morally shortsighted and selfish on the part of the woman. Her mother would be 80 years old; her child's 16th birthday. An octogenarian is hardly fit to cope with the joys of parenting an adolescent child.

The argument that women should have the same options as men, who are free to father children at almost any age, is specious. Elderly men who father children are just as self-centered and insensitive to the needs of their children as women who seek reproductive technology to do the same. KENNETH PRAGER, M.D.

New York, April 24, 1997
The writer is chairman of the medical ethics advisory committee at Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center.

THE JERUSALEM POST

Journal
FRANK RICH

The New World Order

If by any miracle you still remember the campaign of '96, you may recall the poignant soap opera of Bob Dole trying to escape from the Christian Coalition. Every time Mr. Dole stepped toward the center where he might win the election — accepting a contribution from gay Republicans, inserting the word "tolerance" in the platform's abortion plank — Pat Robertson and Ralph Reed yanked him violently to the right again as surely as Al Pacino got sucked back into the Mafia in "Godfather III."

Now we have the final evidence that Mr. Dole was no fool to view the religious right as an albatross likely to drive away the centrist voters who elect Presidents: Mr. Reed, as shrewd and ambitious a politician as his generation can boast, has himself started to separate from the religious right by announcing his resignation as the Christian Coalition's executive director. Mr. Reed seems to know that if he wants national office someday, it will do him no more good than it did Mr. Dole to stay under Mr. Robertson's thumb.

In speaking to Republican politicians both conservative and moderate on a not-for-attribution basis after Mr. Reed's announcement, I found near unanimity of opinion. Few believe that the Christian Coalition will find a new front man with the same extraordinary talent for putting a happy, unthreatening face on a religious-right constituency that embraces a constitutional amendment outlawing abortion, Pat Buchanan's anti-immigrant nativism and fierce opposition to gay civil rights.

Mr. Reed was even reasonably successful in deflecting attention from a Robertson best seller, "The New World Order," in which Farrakhan-esque conspiracy theories about Jewish bankers intermingled with paranoid ramblings about the Council on Foreign Relations of the sort beloved by our better-armed militias. The most successful Reed technique for intimidating the secular mainstream press was to play the victimization card and accuse any critics of Christian-bashing. As proof, he repeatedly cited a single underhanded 1996 Washington Post article (which the Post had immediately corrected) labeling evangelicals "poor, uneducated and easy to command."

With Mr. Reed no longer spinning, a more naked religious right may now scare still more voters away from the G.O.P., especially if Mr. Robertson, who is even capable of injecting apocalyptic musings into discussions of entitlement reform, is more visible. "The religious right could become a loose cannon once again," said one economic conservative. "Robertson is a millennialist and I expect the Christian Coalition to get loonier as we approach the end of the millennium."

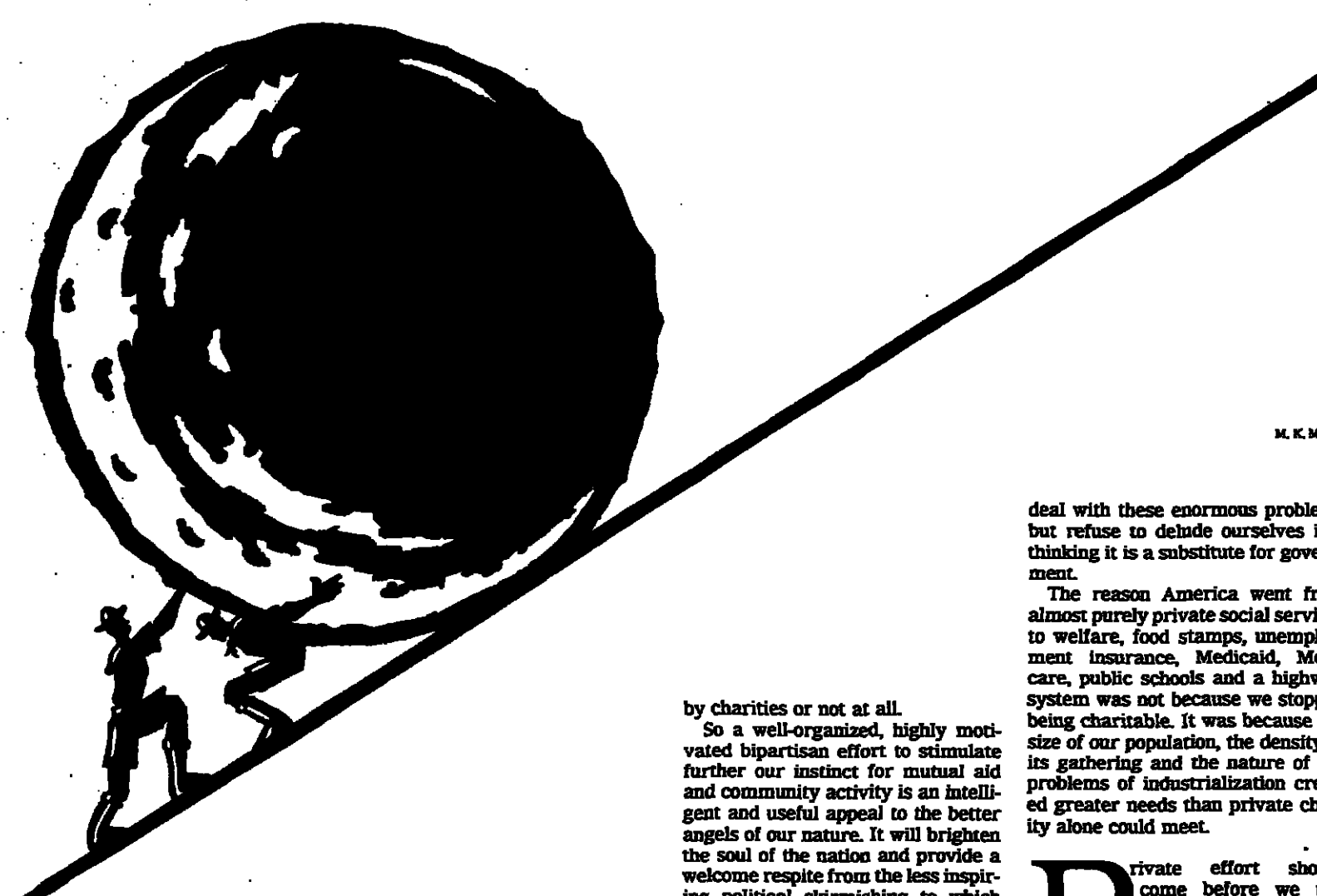
George Stephanopoulos echoed

Reed dumps Robertson.

some Republicans when he argued that Mr. Reed's resignation could hasten the G.O.P.'s inevitable civil war: "Ralph was one of the few who could bridge the divide between the social conservatives and the party's establishment."

In his new role as paid consultant and someday candidate himself, Mr. Reed seems poised to join that establishment and stop peddling the religious right's most extremist views. He's more likely to be in George W. Bush's camp in 2000 than Pat Buchanan's. Even last year, Mr. Reed pragmatically edged away from his organization's rank and file; he not only covertly favored Mr. Dole over Pitchfork Pat at the pivotal primary moment (South Carolina) but also gingerly tried, until Phyllis Schlafly and company laid down the law, to secure a slightly less Draconian abortion plank. Mr. Reed avoids homophobic rhetoric; his fledgling efforts to reach out to poor black Americans, however politically opportune, seem motivated by a sincere desire to atone for conservative hostility to the 60's civil-rights movement.

Depending on how high he's aiming, Mr. Reed could yet move more toward the center. ("Join the rest of America! Come on in! The water's fine!," says Mr. Stephanopoulos, who understands "totally" why a 35-year-old might leave a job as acolyte to a political titan.) One moderate G.O.P. operative, awed by Mr. Reed's "Machiavellian" ability to reinvent himself in pursuit of power, goes so far as to predict that "in three years, people won't remember he was part of the Christian Coalition." The polarized Republican Party Mr. Reed has left in his wake should only have it so good.



Two Cheers For Charity

By Mario M. Cuomo

What a dazzling array of ideas and proposals make up today's extravaganza in Philadelphia called the Presidents' Summit for America's Future!

Americans helping Americans out of a deep compassion for the disadvantaged, especially the 15 million children at risk. "A new way of doing business" (in the words of the sum-

Mario M. Cuomo, the former Governor of New York, is a partner in the law firm of Wilkie Farr & Gallagher.

mit meeting's organizers) that will, by the year 2000, give at least two million of these children better health, better education, a better chance at a good job, safer places to live and work and even better relationships with their parents or mentors.

No one will be taxed to pay for any part of it, nor will there be any grubby partisan politics. Whatever political benefits may develop will redound to both major parties because they are both well-represented among the leading organizers. Altogether, the latest in ultimate voluntarism. And maybe most appealing of all, on the outside of the brightly wrapped package for all to see, these words are emblazoned: "The Era of Big Government Is Over."

There is no doubt that the Philadelphia gathering will be well-received by the American people and that it will do some good. The idea of voluntarism is an irradicably American tradition.

Americans have been marvelously generous with their own time, ideas and resources for more than 200 years. Think of the countless groups already at work: religious organizations, foundations, corporations, not-for-profits like the American Red Cross, Volunteers of America and Mentoring USA — not to mention volunteer firemen who risk their lives for their neighbors simply because it's a good thing to do.

Indeed, for more than most of our history, much of what we now call social services were provided by private charities. Long before welfare, unemployment insurance, Medicaid, Medicare or even a public school system, people in need were helped

by charities or not at all.

So a well-organized, highly motivated bipartisan effort to stimulate further our instinct for mutual aid and community activity is an intelligent and useful appeal to the better angels of our nature. It will brighten the soul of the nation and provide a welcome respite from the less inspiring political skirmishing to which we've become so accustomed. Sounds almost perfect.

Almost.

But there is the danger we will feel so good about being good to one another privately that we will be tempted to believe government does not need to do anything more. The summitters' own statements make appallingly clear how great the need for assistance is. They mention mil-

No amount of volunteerism can let government off the hook.

lions of children at risk and 40 million poor people in America. They mention the need for better education and skills training. There are estimates that just to repair public school buildings around the nation we will need nearly \$100 billion. This does not even consider the shortages of books, transportation and modern technology, nor the inappropriate shortness of the school year.

The summitters mention better health: More than 40 million Americans are without health-care insurance. Both Democrats and Republicans in Congress admit that the life of many children will be ruined unless they are provided with access to early and regular health care.

The summit meeting is a good thing, if we regard it as helpful to

deal with these enormous problems but refuse to delude ourselves into thinking it is a substitute for government.

The reason America went from almost purely private social services to welfare, food stamps, unemployment insurance, Medicaid, Medicare, public schools and a highway system was not because we stopped being charitable. It was because the size of our population, the density of its gathering and the nature of the problems of industrialization created greater needs than private charity alone could meet.

Private effort should come before we use government to serve a need. Government is best used only where private effort is inadequate. But private effort is clearly inadequate to do what we have to do to make any real progress in dealing with the vast, complicated, rooted problems associated with poverty.

Ask John Cardinal O'Connor in New York. Ask the leaders of the United Jewish Federation. Ask the operators of the soup kitchen at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine. Ask the Ohio Hunger Task Force, which feeds 10,000 Americans each year. They will tell you the truth: Of course, the summit is a good thing; of course, we will profit from the encouragement and even from a little prodding. But American charities, at their very best, can build a bridge only a short part of the way across the chasm.

The rest must be done by the real ultimate form of volunteerism, our government, which after all is not something apart from the people, but is rather the coming together of Americans to decide how best to handle common problems with common resources.

If both parties in Congress can agree to waste \$50 billion on so-called corporate welfare; if our Congress says we can afford hundreds of billions of dollars in tax cuts; and if we can afford to give our richest Americans Social Security and Medicare payments they don't need, how can we refuse to build the bridge all the way from here to decency?

Go to the summit. But remember the whole truth!

Essay

WILLIAM SAFIRE

The Other Boris

WASHINGTON

He speaks English well, in a quiet, deferential tone. His age is 37. He is slim, dark-eyed and telegenic.

He is a trained physicist drawn into politics by his opposition to a nuclear power station, who won a seat in the last Soviet parliament as an anti-Communist dissident. After standing with Boris Yeltsin against coup plotters in 1991, he was rewarded with appointment as Governor of the Nizhny Novgorod region — including the notorious closed city of Gorky, where the troublesome were sent into internal exile.

He wore sweaters and jeans to the office and was early in denouncing the war in Chechnya. In privatizing state-owned businesses, he followed the economic policies of the reformist Gligory Yavlinsky rather than the apparition-pleasing methods of Anatoly Chubais; in so doing, he gained the confidence of the World Bank and turned his region into the reform center of Russia. In 1995, he was elected easily.

Meteoric rise of Nemtsov.

Boris Nemtsov was plucked out of the blue two months ago by the resuscitated President Yeltsin to serve, along with Chubais, as First Deputy Prime Minister.

That thrust Nemtsov into a snake-pit of intrigue. Chubais is seeking to oust the wealthy Viktor Chernomyrdin, who was named Prime Minister when Yeltsin needed the financial support of the ex-Communist bankers and industrialists who have been stealing Russia blind. Chubais, a renegade reformer despised for his insider compromises by purer democrats, is blamed by most Russians for privatization giveaways and could not be elected wolfcatcher.

But neither could the stolid Chernomyrdin, whose only loyal constituent is Al Gore. Both unpopular Yeltsin appointees had reached a standoff last week, as red ink overflowed, about control of the richest jewel in the Kremlin crown: the oil-gas-power monopolies, the oligopoly that is the source of Chernomyrdin's strength.

Then Yeltsin pulled out his famous fast ones. Instead of letting either of the two control the resources, he crossed up both by appointing Nemtsov, still wet behind his Kremlin ears, to run the crucial "natural" monopolies.

This was pleasing to the people, who have vaulted Nemtsov to the top of the personal popularity polls, largely because of his opening stunt in stripping bureaucrats of perks and demanding all government limos be Russian-made.

It also pleased Yavlinsky, the only reformer building a grass-roots political party for the long haul, who hailed his protégé as "Deputy Czar for Revolutions," a mock-title formerly applied to himself. Yavlinsky, with his Yabloko Party supportive of today's policy but still independent of the regime, pledged to supply Nemtsov with expert staff and recommendations to decentralize economic power and bust up the stagnating monopolies.

How long does the new man's writ run? Yeltsin is a past master at dividing opponents and riding others' popularities. His last horse was Gen. Aleksandr Lebed, whom he pushed forward with TV exposure at election time to split the nationalist vote, appointed to a high post with much fanfare, then jettisoned when he acted uppity. Lebed suddenly finds himself tied for "most trusted" in polls with Yeltsin's new favorite, the other Boris.

Curiously, in a country where Jews are a tiny minority and anti-Semitism is widespread, Nemtsov's Jewish roots have not hurt him politically. Perhaps that's because he has plenty of company in government: the loony Vladimir Zhirinovskiy tries to hide his Jewish ancestry, while Yavlinsky does not. Chubais is rumored to have a Jewish parent, but says nothing, and the spymaster now Foreign Minister changed his name from Finkelstein to Primakov (Ukrainian for "stepson") to conceal his background.

Could the Pushkinsque Nemtsov make it all the way? Western pundits interviewing him during his yearly visits to the World Economic Forum can attest he has a real talent for shyly working a room. But he has been gutsy in his opinions, and will surely knock the socks off American television viewers.

Maybe he is being set up by Yeltsin and Chubais for a wild ride and a sharp fall. The job could be too big for any one man with derivative power. At the same time, when his friend Yavlinsky warned him against joining "a whole detachment of well-fixed kamikazes," Nemtsov smiled and replied, "A kamikaze can live for a very long time."

The Law Is at Risk in Tobacco Suits

By Bill Pryor

FOR THE TWO DOZEN state attorneys general who are suing the tobacco industry, a Federal judge that the Food and Drug Administration can regulate cigarettes was good news. It may strengthen their hand in the current settlement talks with the big tobacco companies.

I have no quarrel with having the F.D.A. regulate cigarettes. But I and several other attorneys general have made it clear that our states will not join the suits against the tobacco industry. The actions against these companies are being pursued mostly by liberal attorneys general, some of whom have retained prominent trial lawyers to advance their cause. This litigation reflects not only bad public policy, but bad law.

I am not an ally of Big Tobacco. Alabama does not have a significant amount of tobacco farming. Cigarette smoking is a serious public health problem, and I have been working closely with other state officials and business leaders on ways to keep cigarettes away from young people.

As a conservative, however, I believe in the strict separation of governmental powers. Courts should not resolve political problems. The states that have sued the tobacco

Bill Pryor is Attorney General of Alabama.

It's a mistake to bypass legislatures — and to cut deals with companies.

legislatures should defray them by raising taxes on cigarettes.

Liberals do not believe that legislatures will raise cigarette taxes. So they want the courts to solve this political problem for them, thus enriching their trial lawyer allies.

Though the harmful effects of tobacco have been known for a long time, millions of Americans smoke anyway. Cigarettes are already heavily taxed by state and Federal governments. In fact, governments collect more in cigarette taxes than they pay out for the costs of tobacco-related illnesses, according to studies by leading economic analysts.

The state attorneys general who are suing the tobacco industry are

also trying to get around accepted legal principles. In Alabama, a panel of experts from my office, the state Medicaid Agency, the Department of Public Health, the Governor's office and the Cumberland School of Law unanimously concluded that these suits are based on unsound legal theories.

The dirty little secret of the state lawsuits is that many of them are intended to be heard by judges, not by juries, which have often agreed with the tobacco industry that smokers assume the risks of their behavior. (These suits have been filed as "equity" cases, which seek redress but not compensatory damages and are only heard by judges.) But this approach plays fast and loose with a fundamental civil right. Jury trials solve controversial cases in a more democratic way.

Because states pay benefits to Medicaid recipients, they have the right to sue tobacco companies on behalf of those beneficiaries. But to pursue their cases in the standard way, the states would face a number of obstacles: A state would have to bring a separate case for each individual. Every case would pose a different problem concerning the statute of limitations and the individual's knowledge of the dangers of smoking.

To get around that, the states are using the dubious argument of "unjust enrichment" on the part of the tobacco companies. The states argue that the companies unfairly benefit because the states pay to treat tobacco-related illnesses that the cigarette companies have in effect caused.

Note to Readers

The Op-Ed page welcomes unsolicited manuscripts. Because of the volume of submissions, however, we regret that we cannot acknowledge an article or return it. If manuscripts are accepted for publication, authors will be notified within two weeks. For further information, call (212) 556-1831.

THE ARTS

P.T. Barnum's Influence Is Still Felt in Classical Music World

By JAMES R. OESTREICH

AN IDEAL HOLLYWOOD ENDING IT WAS NOT. How gratifying it might have been if David Helfgott had proved the resurrected pianistic genius, however eccentric, portrayed in the movie "Shine" and in the surrounding promotional apparatus. Then again, "Shine," produced in Australia, was not, strictly speaking, a Hollywood movie.

So what exactly happened? Is it possible at last, with Mr. Helfgott headed for Europe after two recitals this week in Pasadena, Calif., to cast a dispassionate eye on the affair of the last few months for what it may



David Helfgott in a recent concert.

have to say about the worrisome state of classical music in the United States?

What became obvious on the pianist's arrival in America last month was that the Helfgott phenomenon had little to do with music. Suspicions raised in advance by the waywardness of his performances on the film soundtrack and in an RCA recording of Rachmaninoff's Third Piano Concerto (known to musicians, and now to moviegoers, as the Rach 3), were amply confirmed by two recitals in Avery Fisher Hall and another in the Academy of Music in Philadelphia: whatever level Mr. Helfgott had achieved before his mental breakdown, this was not now a great, or even a particularly good, pianist. If the medium for his "genius" had been chess or mathematics, his shortcomings would probably have become more quickly and indisputably apparent to more people.

Nor, despite the heated terms in which it was argued, did the phenomenon have much to do with morality. There was, to be sure, a voyeuristic aspect to the intense curiosity surrounding the concert as well as the movie; Mr. Helfgott's mental illness, especially as portrayed by Geoffrey Rush in the film, manifests itself in undeniably entertaining ways. But far more, there was a genuine desire to see an underdog triumph, Rocky-like, and to find once again, in the best Hollywood tradition, that love conquers all. Mr. Helfgott seemed to be enjoying his new-found fame and commercial success. If he was a victim of exploitation, then what is to be said of the preteen and teen-age prodigies who are trotted onto the concert stage with such regularity?

No, the Helfgott phenomenon had mostly to do with show business. That Jenny Lind, the "Swedish Nightingale," was actually a great singer probably mattered little to P.T. Barnum, who sold her to a ravenous American public a century ago; what mattered was that she was marketable. Barnum would have been the first to recognize the opportunity afforded by the success of "Shine," but he could hardly have done a better job of capitalizing on it than that done by his Australian counterparts.

And this, alas, is what the classical-music business has come to in America and elsewhere: chasing sensations, whether David Helfgott,

Gregorian chant or aging tenors. Although the rumors of its demise have been greatly exaggerated, the classical world persists in taking suicidal risks in search of the quick fix, the ultimate high.

The big bucks, one might add, in the cases of companies and individuals trying to make a hefty profit from a business in which prestige was once as good as gold: radio stations, record companies and artist managements, not to mention the big-name artists themselves.

Now many of the big classical record labels, having belatedly awakened to the existence of a reissue glut of their own making, have jettisoned loyal artists and substantial repertoires and turned to more profitable "thematic" compilations, movie soundtracks and dubious crossover efforts. But while they may have abandoned their ideals, they have not stopped dreaming: they dream of the next ready-made celebrity, like Mr. Helfgott, or the next fluky hit, like Henryk Gorecki's mystical Third Symphony.

Perhaps the biggest problem of all, however, if one is to believe the English critic Norman Lebrecht, is simple greed. Mr. Lebrecht's latest book, "When the Music Stops: Managers, Maestros and the Corporate Murder of Classical Music," available in Britain and soon to appear in America, offers a scathing indictment of celebrity artists and their managers, although his good points tend to be undercut by a casual attitude toward factual detail.

AND HERE, INTO THIS TROUBLED midst, strode — nay, sprinted — David Helfgott. He provided, if little else, the catharsis and diversion of righteous indignation. Everyone in the business, it seemed, was preoccupied, wanting to know where everyone else stood, feeling superior to most.

"What should I say to my students, who have been told that the way to get ahead in this field is through diligence, hard work and patience?" a conservatory professor asked. Tell them that life is unfair, perhaps. (Although Mr. Helfgott has some tales to tell along those lines, too.)

Critics could decry the exploitation of this disturbed individual and the lack of sophistication of audiences of which they were ashamed to be a part. Helfgott spokespeople and

The Helfgott hype included facile and absurd comparisons. Vladimir Horowitz, it was noted, retired from the stage from 1953 to 1965 because of nervous strain; and in fact, Horowitz played wretchedly at times in the 1980's while under heavy medication. Glenn Gould, it was noted, was also eccentric, and he groaned along with his performances more or less the way Mr. Helfgott did; and in fact, Gould was more seriously disturbed than has widely been thought, to judge from a book due next month, "Glenn Gould: The Ecstasy and Tragedy of Genius," by Peter F. Oswald, who was a psychiatrist and a friend of Gould's.

But such comparisons overlook an obvious difference: both Horowitz and Gould established themselves as brilliant performers in maturity. For all the loose talk of "prodigy" and "genius," Mr. Helfgott was nothing more than a promising student at the Royal College of Music in London before his first breakdown. Afterward, there was little reason to expect greatness of him.

A more accurate analogy might be to Erwin Nyiregyhazi, a pianist born in Budapest in 1903. Nyiregyhazi failed to realize his prodigious youthful potential and fell into poverty in Los Angeles, where he died in 1987. Some "comeback" recordings he made in the 70's, however, reveal a genuinely developed and reasonably coherent artistic temperament, something the 49-year-old Mr. Helfgott has yet to show.

Still, more than any of these, the pianist who kept coming to mind in the way Mr. Helfgott skated over musical surfaces, and especially in the kind of breathless adulation he drew from uncritical listeners, was, of all people, Liberace. Mr. Helfgott may have found his proper level on the Academy Awards telecast. Even though he got lost in his signature piece, "The Flight of the Bumblebee," he came off sounding better than Madonna.

Rejoice, the music world is told. Think of all the potential new listeners who are being reached by the film, the concerts, the recordings. ("Brilliantissimo," a disk of solo performances by Mr. Helfgott, is due next month from RCA.) It is indeed possible that a Helfgott experience will provide a first, intriguing exposure to classical music for some listeners. But it would be hopelessly unrealistic to expect great throngs of new listeners to arise from any these sensations.

Serious art or show business? Consider the David Helfgott sensation.

audience members could heap scorn on the critics, who were, after all, always intent on spoiling a good thing. ("Mean-spirited" was the term heard most often in the aisles of Avery Fisher Hall.) Helfgott "publicists" went a step farther, doing their best, after the discouraging early returns, to see that the concerts were not written about in certain quarters.

Even The Times of London got into the act. "The critics' attacks probably reflected an irritation that the musical agenda has been set by a non-American film," wrote Quentin Letts, a New York correspondent. (That's it, of course: American critics would have preferred a musical agenda set by "Mr. Holland's Opus," with its soupy popification of classical music.)

"Given some of the discordant drivel their fraternity has endorsed," Mr. Letts went on, "it is hard to resist a frisson of satisfaction at seeing their game spoilt."

ISN'T IT TIME THAT CLASSICAL music stops looking for great thrills in any case? Its problems do not arise overnight, and they will not be solved overnight. In fact, much of what is happening among musical institutions, self-destructive urges aside, may be part of a long-term evolution: a normalization of sorts after the booming growth of recent decades.

For the attempt to make classical music a mass medium has essentially failed. The turnout for the likes of David Helfgott and the Three Tenors has little effect on the day-to-day operations of musical institutions beyond encouraging them to chase chimera. Making classical music available to everyone is one thing; trying to create an endlessly expanding market for it is another.

True, the attempt at popularization was made largely out of noble motives. Four decades ago, most U.S. musicians genuinely had it bad. Orchestral players were browbeaten by conductors, grossly underpaid in relation to other highly skilled professions and rarely employed year-round. Spurred by toughening unions, the orchestras set out to change all that, extending seasons and instituting summer festivals, chamber programs and other events to provide fuller and more lucrative employment. Old institutions were



Auspicious beginning: P.T. Barnum, center, introduces Jenny Lind to Ossian E. Dodge, a Boston singer and the purchaser of the first ticket for her concert.

puffed up and new ones created.

Orchestral players were given big wage increases and other benefits, to bring them into line with comparable professions. But human nature being what it is, this catch-up mode soon came to be seen by its beneficiaries as the norm. Although most U.S. orchestral players now have it good in relation to the general population, they have been slow to acknowledge that such increases cannot go on forever — indeed, for very long at all. Their continuing demands, along with the high fees of music directors, put tremendous strain on the finances of even the largest orchestras.

Thus the pressure to fill every seat, and the ascendance of marketing. To most marketers, maximizing audiences means performing familiar, well loved repertory and hiring glitzy soloists and guest conductors. It might be easy to dismiss the Helfgott tour as an aberration that had

little to do with hard-core musical activity were Mr. Helfgott not returning in August to play the Rach 3 with the Hollywood Bowl Orchestra, an adjunct of the Los Angeles Philharmonic. The wonder in the current, panicked climate is that other orchestras have not (yet) leapt at him and his box-office power.

Glitzy soloists are hugely expensive, some able to draw more than \$50,000 for a single performance. A few may be worth it, in terms of artistry as well as drawing power. Still, the returns are seldom more than marginal, and costs and ticket prices keep spiraling upward.

So the mandate to reach the masses with great music, which arose partly for good reasons, is kept in place chiefly for a bad one: to sustain an unstable economy. Classical music is saddled with oversize, overpriced institutions, and the only way it can keep them going, seemingly, is to feed the celebrity culture

that has done it so much harm in the first place.

It is a perilous time. Some institutions, wisely, have begun to re-examine their missions and to take creative approaches to maintaining a solid audience base. Others may perish. Yet even there, some good is possible. If, for example, a regional orchestra were to die here and there, there might be a heightened demand for the great American orchestras to tour the United States rather than running off to play Beethoven in Japan year after year. There might — wonder of wonders — be a heightened demand for the great orchestras on radio and even on records.

It may be that we have seen the future, and it is the leaner and meaner past. Classical music thrived for centuries as a minority interest, loved passionately by a relative few. Unless the radio stations and record companies leave only scorched earth behind, it is likely to do so again. □

OFF THE RACK

By MATT GAFFNEY / Edited by WILL SHORTZ

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ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

SEEMS TRY LOFT TENSE
TACIT VEE INOR SHALES
YSHNIKOVSEQUE NEMENT
ETOTILE MODELSHIT YAN
VENTRAL USES YAN
METES RUNT FEATHER
TGER SIN ORGS REMITE
ERA BLVI NYO ATREST
NUNSGAINS MIDIS FLOPS
YNGA YOOTIN STANGE
ATYN KLEYRACODA YEST
SHOCKS ALPERT ODO
PEKOE STIRS ASTONERS
SPINES EOS HART HAY
ACETIN SYNE IBS GITE
LASHMEDAY GOLD NACES
SUN BECA GUESTOP
ONO AMASIONS ORPATE
RELATE WHOLDISOUTERS
TRENOR WELL OOT DORIS
AESOPS ASEA EYE SLOPE



Liberace in 1954: He skated over musical surfaces the way David Helfgott did in his recitals.

MOVIE REVIEW

Reach for disguise

By ADINA HOFFMAN

As the title character in *The Saint*, a chameleon-like, high-stakes thief who speaks around the world making billions with nothing more to help him than a super-duper lap-top computer and an endless stash of spirit gum, Val Kilmer demonstrates an unsavory blend of sharp skill and bloated ego. No matter how much time he spends pasting on fake mustaches, switching wigs and swapping accents, his presence onscreen never changes.

THE SAINT

Directed by Phillip Noyce. Screenplay by Jonathan Hensleigh and Wesley Strick. Hebrew title: *Hassurach*. English dialogue, Hebrew subtitles. Parental guidance suggested.

With Val Kilmer, Elisabeth Shue, Ricki Serfaty.

His transformations are purely cosmetic — really just glorified costume changes — and director Phillip Noyce seems content to use his star's glib technique in place of meaningful psychology or emotion.

But perhaps it is foolish to demand anything so grand as meaning of a picture as insistently silly and nonsensical as this one. Based on the exploits of the identity-swapping character in the old Leslie Charteris novels and, more directly, on the '60s TV show starring Roger Moore, the movie offers an occasionally entertaining, more often pointless mishmash of low camp, high tech and truly awful dialogue.

It's almost too obvious to say that *The Saint* itself keeps shifting character and tone, but such is indeed the case. The only element that's common to the film's mismatched parts is the pounding, drum-driven soundtrack that curses throughout, and all-permeating air of carefree absurdity that hovers over the action.

The plot, such as it is, must be tongue-in-cheek, so familiar and cheesy are its James Bond-styled lurches and twists (the sloppy abandon with which these various elements are stapled together, though, casts these old-fashioned Cold War devices in a peculiarly apolitical new light). In a preposterous nutshell: Simon Templar, a.k.a. The Saint, hires himself out to help an evil Russian politico steal data on cold fusion from a pretty American science whiz, played in bizarre, breathless fashion by Elisabeth Shue.

Alleged to be the world's leading expert in her field, she appears most of the time wearing knee socks, short skirts and teeny hair barrettes.

While Shue does look cute in her little outfits, Noyce's decision to deck her out as a preternaturally developed eighth-grade girl seems a shameless, to say nothing of creepy, way of pandering to the film's intended audience of 11- and 12-year-old boys.

Of course, *The Saint* and fair physicist soon fall in love and join efforts to bring down the scheming dictator and release cold fusion to the entire world. Much scrambling through Moscow sewers ensues, as does endless underwater and airborne daredevilry. Screenwriters Jonathan Hensleigh and Wesley



Simon Templar (Val Kilmer) makes a quick getaway from one of the many sources of danger that confront him in 'The Saint.'

Strick even attempt to assign *The Saint* a childhood trauma that explains (sort of) his penchant

for playing dress-ups, but as you might suspect, this fleeting gesture toward serious psychology

falls flat. The hero's various incarnations (a mustachioed Russian soldier, a

bospectacled American nerd, a long-haired South African poet, etc., each named for a Catholic

saint) fall neatly into line with all the other stereotypes in the movie. Cold fusion indeed.

THEATER REVIEW

A dizzy concoction

By NAOMI DOUDAI

Cash on Delivery, Michael Cooney's racy, rib-tickling West End comedy of errors at Beersheba Municipal Theater, is for the most part good, clean, old-time fun and fooling. (No sex, please, we're British.) Hanan Goldblatt, as the disarming villain of the piece, complicates the action with his contortist rageries and take-offs as he keeps this fast-paced piece spinning in an interminable web of flimflammy and deft deceptions.

The play, a domestic drama dependent on a structure of crazy coincidences, multiple misunderstandings, hepped-up exits and entrances, untimely accidents, endless errors, and explosive double entendres, is given a bouncy send-off with Brian Godfrey's Punch-and-Judy inspired direction.

The casting, with redheaded TV personality Ruby Porat Shoval as the elegant and engaging Linda, Luma Yakar as a fetching ingenue, Brenda, David Kigler as the slow-



Hanan Goldblatt gets some comfort from Ruby Porat Shoval.

witted, gullible Norman, and Chen Chagi as the diverting, dry personification of the ultimate civil servant, is totally in sync with the sense and spirit of this dizzy concoction of frantic folly and swirling situations.

Chopin's bitterness

By MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

Tonight and tomorrow night Prina Saltzman will put on her evening dress and make the short journey from her central Tel Aviv home to the Tel Aviv Performing Arts Center, one of the few local concert venues in which she has not performed.

On stage Saltzman, one of Israel's most established pianists, will play Chopin's first piano concerto with the Israel Symphony Orchestra Rishon LeZion. And when she plays this opus her memories will no doubt travel many years and many miles as she recalls the first time she played the piece. "It was the first ever concerto I played. It was in Paris and Paul Paray was conducting. Then when I returned to Israel I played it in my Israel Philharmonic debut."

Born in Tel Aviv, Saltzman left for Paris when she was eight years old, and for the next eight years studied in the French capital. She returned home with a very warm recommendation from Bronislaw Huberman, the founder of the IPO. "We came back in the middle of July, we didn't even have a piano at home and my IPO concert was set for August 2. They asked me what I knew and I said I knew just three concertos, the two of Chopin and one by Liszt. And so they wanted me to play all three in the concert and I agreed; at the time it was more than natural for me."

Since then she has appeared more than 200 times as a soloist with the IPO.

Will she play the Chopin concerto today as she played it when she was 14 and on the almost 70 other occasions she performed it? "When you are young you give 100% of yourself to anything you do," says Saltzman. "As time passes you learn more and more works so suddenly that 100% turns into 10%. You still give everything you have, but that everything is much bigger than before, you know much more. Back then it was the only concerto I knew."

Saltzman admits that she is very sentimental towards this concerto. "I cannot teach it. It makes me mad when students bring it to me. For me there is only one interpretation for this concerto, but I cannot force it on my students."

For Saltzman this concerto "is full of longing. There's lots of love and longing in the first movement. I hear pianists play it like a stroll in the park. They think Chopin is sweet but that's wrong because he is bitter. Schumann sings but Chopin talks."

Saltzman's career, which spans the leading music centers around the world, is a mirror of Israeli history. "I am proud that I remained here. I don't think it is right to leave Israel for an international career. Maybe I'm not smart but I have been the babysitter of Israel and I'm proud of that."

Prina Saltzman plays Chopin's first piano concerto with the Israel Symphony Orchestra Rishon LeZion under Yoav Talmi tonight and tomorrow at the Tel Aviv Performing Arts Center.

IN TUNE

By DAVID BRINN

The two queens of Israeli pop, Yehudit Ravitz and Ahinoam Nini, have released solid new albums highlighting their strengths and downplaying their weaknesses.

Ravitz is in fine form at the outset of *What Kind of Girl Am I* with the title song and "She Returns," both sounding like radio classics from the first time you hear them. Her husky tone and rock sensibilities lend "Little Girl in the Forest" and "Once" a raw-sounding edge that has been absent for most of her illustrious career, while "My Heart Says" toys with a rhythmic world beat sound.

Ravitz runs out of steam about halfway through though, and aside from the ethereal instrumental "A

WHAT KIND OF GIRL AM I
Yehudit Ravitz
(Helicon)

AHINOAM NINI
Ahinoam Nini
(NMC)

SOME THINGS
NEVER CHANGE
Supertramp
(NMC)

THE BEST OF TIME
Styx
(Helicon)

Little Quiet," the rest of the tunes are adequate, but nondescript. Still, this is an impressive return to form for the veteran singer.

The same problem occurs to Nini on her self-titled effort. This is a scaled-down project from her last album, *Noa*, which was a pop attempt at mass popularity. Here, she returns to a largely low-key acoustic and earthy sound that showcases her beautiful voice.

The world beats about here too, but with a few exceptions, the material is not spectacular. "Nana" with its lilting, gentle repetitive chorus, and "But Love," a romantic duet with Meir Banai, are two standouts, with "Morning" and its mixture of Mediterranean instruments and English chorus close behind.

Both records are worthwhile, with some fine songs surrounded by some ordinary ones. Fans of both artists, of course, will need to own these since the best songs are as good as either has ever recorded.

SOME album titles say it all, and Supertramp's return after more than a decade's absence, *Some Things Never Change*, is truth in advertising.

The Rick Davies-led ensemble still makes the same airy keyboard-based pop that made them an FM rock favorite in the late 1970s.

However, the reason they disbanded in the first place in the

Return of the queens



Yehudit Ravitz' 'What Kind of Girl Am I' is an impressive return to form for this veteran singer.

mid-'80s after lead singer Roger Hodgson left, was that they had begun to run their formula into the ground.

So, on this regrouping, minus Hodgson, you'll find the same pseudo-overtones to serious music masked behind the pleasant melodies, but you'll find nothing as interesting as "The Logical Song" or "Take the Long Way Home." Bands will continue to renege with nothing new to say. Some things never change.

AT LEAST we don't have to deal with Styx getting back together.

Their newly released, digitally remastered greatest-hits package is painful enough.

Answering the musical question, "Who put the bombast in rock 'n' roll?" Styx produced a string of chart-topping hits for the mall crowds in the '70s and '80s. And the years have not treated kindly those synthesized strings and junior-high sentimental mush masquerading as progressive rock. What's next, an REO Speedwagon revival?

If you need any more proof that The Sex Pistols were necessary, look no further.

TOWER RECORDS' TOP 15

THIS LAST WEEKS ON WEEK WEEK CHARTS			ARTIST	TITLE
#1	1	10	YEHUDA POLIKER	LIVE
#2	5	2	VIA	PARTY TIME 3
#3	8	2	TONI BRAXTON	SECRETS
#4	5	2	AHINOAM NINI	AHINOAM NINI '97
#5	6	2	ALANIS MORISSETTE	JAGGED LITTLE PILL
#6	9	2	OST	PULP FICTION
#7	23	2	NO DOUBT	TRAGIC KINGDOM
#8	3	3	AVIV GEFEN	FULL MOON
#9	19	23	SPICE GIRLS	SPICE
#10	NEW	1	DEPECHE MODE	ULTRA
#11	21	18	RONIT SHAHAR	SAHAR
#12	25	2	OST	THE MIMAMUT
#13	20	5	VIA	EVIL
#14	10	4	YEHUDIT RAVITZ	KISHKASH'S FRIENDS
#15	17	34	RAMI KLEINSTEIN	WHAT KIND OF GIRL... COLLECTION

Tower Records' top-selling albums for last week

BUSINESS

in brief

Enso now Europe's No. 2 paper maker

Finnish forestry group Enso Oy said yesterday it was taking over German newspaper and magazine paper maker E.Holzmann, widening its product range and making it Europe's second largest producer of paper and board. Enso's initial purchase, of a 50.4 percent majority in the German company for 1.8 billion markka (\$346.2 million), would boost its overall annual capacity by 700,000 tonnes to 6.7 million.

That puts Enso ahead of Sweden's Stora, but still clearly behind its Finnish rival UPM-Kymmene, it said. "We are now... in a situation where we can offer all the products that publishers need and we are also competitive in size," Enso CEO Jukka Harnala told a news conference. *Reuters*

Metromedia Int'l to sell assets to MGM

Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Inc. is buying Metromedia International Group Inc.'s entertainment group and film library for \$573 million, the companies said yesterday. They said the deal involves Metromedia's 2,200-title film and television library and the production and distribution activities of its entertainment group, which includes Orion Pictures Corp., Goldwyn Entertainment Co. and Motion Picture Corp. of America. In addition to the library, MGM will acquire 12 completed films and five direct-to-video features for future release.

The companies said the transaction does not include Metromedia's Landmark Theater Group, which has a total of 138 screens at 50 locations throughout the US. *Reuters*

EU seeks united front to narrow wealth gap

European Commissioners sought yesterday to hide deep divisions and forge a united front in the battle to narrow a wide gap in living standards between rich and poor EU members and prepare for expansion eastwards. During a three-day conference to discuss reforms to EU regional, social and farm aid spending, 1,200 experts from the EU's 15 member states and 10 east European applicant countries will discuss a strategy for a massive new seven-year spending program starting in 1999.

"We are still a long way from our grand goal of creating a single European area which is competitive, regionally well-balanced and firmly anchored in its social dimension," EU Regional Affairs Commissioner Monika Wulf-Mathies said.

The EU has failed to bridge the poverty gap despite spending 170 billion euros (\$192 billion) between 1994-99 to help the poorer countries - Portugal, Greece, Ireland and Spain - catch up with their richer partners. *Reuters*

Bundesbank exec: Better to delay monetary union than compromise criteria

SAARBRUECKEN, Germany (Reuters) - Bundesbank council member Hans-Juergen Koebnick said yesterday that he believed a delay in the start of European monetary union would be preferable to twisting the facts to allow a punctual start.

"I think it is correct to allow

the timetable to be determined by convergence developments, but a limited delay in the start of EMU would be preferable to a breach of promise," he said in the text of a speech.

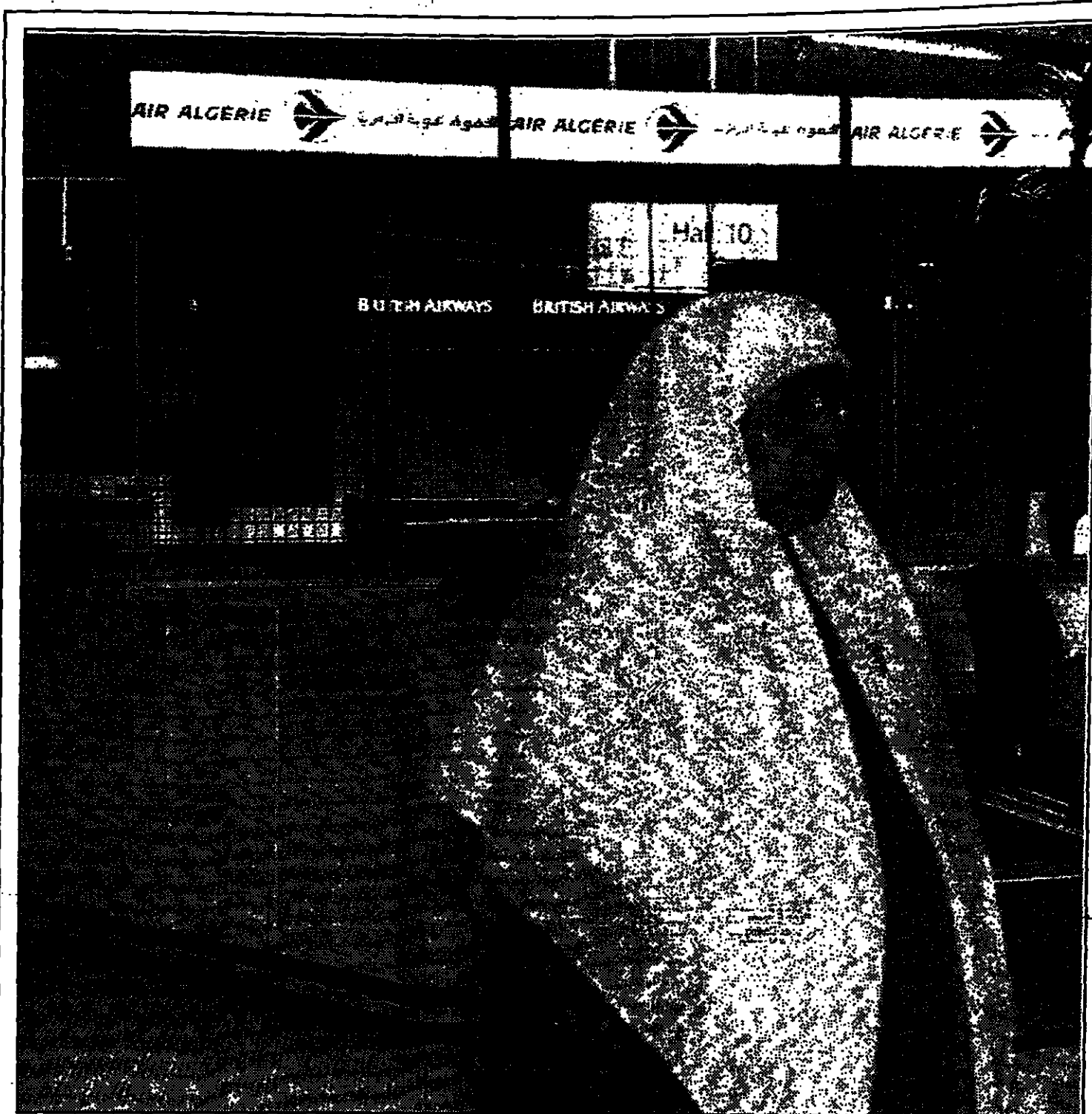
"In contrast to some other commentators, I do not believe that this would lead to cata-

strophic consequences," he added.

Many countries are facing huge problems in meeting one of the criteria for entry to monetary union, which requires that annual public deficits total no more than three percent of a country's gross domestic product.

It is touch and go whether Germany will reach the required level in time for monetary union. Without commenting specifically on his own views, Koebnick said that "hardly anyone apart from the Bonn government and the EC commission believes that Germany will meet the three per-

cent level." Bonn's official forecast is for a 2.9% deficit and Finance Minister Theo Waigel reaffirmed that goal at an international meeting in Washington on Sunday. Most independent economists believe this may be optimistic.



BA takes legal action against Roissy-Charles de Gaulle Airport

An Air Algerie passenger passes by Paris's Roissy Airport counters situated next to British Airways counters, as Air Algerie restarted flights over the weekend to and from Roissy-Charles de Gaulle Airport after a two-year interruption. British Airways is taking legal action to overturn the airport's decision to allow the Algerian airline to operate from the main terminal, a move it alleges threatens the security of other carriers. *(Reuters)*

Strikes hit French air traffic, pilots extend action

PARIS (Reuters) - Pilots at Air France Europe, protesting at wage cuts and working conditions in a merger with parent Air France, voted yesterday to extend their four-day-old strike into today and tomorrow.

"Management refuses... the slightest start of discussions," the unions said in a statement.

The pilots' strike again disrupted French air traffic yesterday, grounding about 40 percent of Air France Europe flights, while a flight attendants' strike caused similar cancellations at two French units of British Airways (BA).

The strike by hostesses and stewards at BA's units TAT and Air Liberte over pay and conditions began almost three weeks ago.

Long-haul flights were unaffected, the airline said.

The airlines said that some 60% of their flights operated as normal yesterday and predicted similar levels of service for today.

Also yesterday, air traffic controllers at Paris Orly airport gave notice they would strike tomorrow to gain work conditions similar to those of their counterparts at Charles de Gaulle Roissy Airport.

A spokesman for France's aviation authority could not give precise figures about the expected level of disruption but said at least 40% of scheduled traffic would be assured.

The 120 Orly air traffic controllers say the level of traffic at Paris's smaller airport, though lower than at Roissy, is high enough to warrant similar treatment in terms of bonuses and pay differentials.

The aviation authority spokesman said the authority was ready to open negotiations on the issue.

Boeing doubles income, but disappoints Wall St.

SEATTLE (Reuters) - Boeing Co. said yesterday that first-quarter profit more than doubled and sales rose 70 percent as it ramped up airplane production, but the results disappointed Wall Street and the company's stock tumbled.

Boeing said it earned \$313 million, or 87 cents a share, in the quarter, excluding an accounting credit, compared with \$119m, or 35 cents a share, a year earlier. Revenue soared to \$7.32 billion from \$4.29b.

But the net income was 13% below the Wall Street consensus of \$1 a share, according to First Call, and Boeing stock lost \$5.50 to \$96.50 in afternoon trading on the New York Stock Exchange.

"The stock is down because com-

ings came in quite a bit below the consensus. That's it in a nutshell," said Peter Jacobs, an analyst at Ragen MacKenzie in Seattle.

Analysts said Boeing's earnings were hurt by higher-than-expected research and development expenses for new airplane models and other projects, including a commercial space venture. The firm also said it was incurring significant overtime costs as it increases production to meet rising demand and warned that profit margins would be under pressure for the rest of the year.

"It's sort of a wake-up call to some analysts who I think have been a little too optimistic about their margins," said Bob Toomey at Piper Jaffray.

London bankers warned of money-laundering dangers

LONDON (Reuters) - Bankers in London need to adapt to changes in the way illegal drugs money is being laundered, a leading US crime-fighter said yesterday.

"I hope to persuade bankers that they should not adhere to old rules but should adapt to changing times," John Moscow, a senior assistant district attorney in Manhattan, told a media briefing.

Moscow said his mission was to get drugs money, which came off the streets of New York or from the cartels of Colombia, from being pushed through the international banking system.

"We are trying to take the profit out of drug crimes by going after the financial crimes," Moscow said, adding that this would only happen if banks were made aware of problems such as "layering."

This is where dollars are rapidly shunted around the world by electronic transfer to hide their true identity. "If you do it [layering] for a week, law enforcement will never catch up," he said.

Moscow said it was important for an institution to be aware of money-laundering "from the top down."

He said it was not enough for banks to hide behind bank secrecy. "I think bank secrecy is a bad thing for honest economies," he added.

And there is great potential for British banks to be brought to jus-

tice by US law enforcers was said Rowan Bosworth-Davies of law firm Timmins Sainer Dechert, whose firm begins a day symposium on the subject today.

"The US government has made it very clear that it intends to take strong action against [firms in] other jurisdictions," he said.

Bosworth-Davies also revealed the results of a survey of money laundering reporting officers which found "34 percent of respondents could be said not to have been given anything approaching adequate money laundering training."

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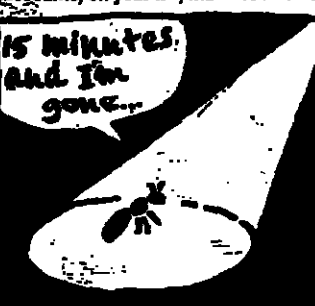
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Petah (foreign currency deposit rates) (11.9.96)				
Currency (deposit for)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS	
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	3.750	5.000	5.375	
Pound sterling (£100,000)	3.875	4.500	4.250	
German mark (DM 200,000)	1.625	1.625	1.625	
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	0.625	0.750	1.000	
Yen (10 million yen)				
(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)				
Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (25.4.97)				
CHECKS AND TRANSFERS		BANKNOTES		Rep.
Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell	
U.S. dollar	3.5466	3.7047	3.5466	3.5778
German mark	3.3715	3.4258	3.3715	3.4010
Pound sterling	1.9644	1.9961	1.9644	1.9961
French franc	5.4748	5.5923	5.4748	5.5923
Japanese yen (100)	0.5922	0.5916	0.57	0.60
Dutch florin	2.8790	2.7182	2.82	2.78
Swiss franc	1.7485	1.7747	1.71	1.80
Swedish krona	2.3038	2.3436	2.28	2.32
Norwegian krona	0.4381	0.4482	0.43	0.48
Denmark krone	0.5167	0.4953	0.46	0.50
Finnish mark	0.0534	0.0541	0.05	0.06
Canadian dollar	2.4154	2.3940	2.44	2.48
Australian dollar	2.2195	2.2444	2.27	2.30
S. African rand	0.7584	0.7707	0.75	0.78
Belgian franc (10)	0.5921	0.5916	0.57	0.60
Austrian schilling (10)	2.7919	2.8357	2.74	2.78
Italian lira (1000)	1.9797	2.0058	1.98	2.04
Jordanian dinar	0.8900	0.9100	0.89	0.91
Egyptian pound	3.8245	3.9882	3.82	3.98
Irish punt	5.2268	5.3112	5.13	5.20
Spanish peseta (100)	2.3265	2.3871	2.28	2.40
*These rates vary according to bank.				
SOURCE: BANK LEUMI				

ISRAELI SHARES IN NEW YORK

Table with 2 columns: Symbol, Last Price. Includes AMEX and NASDAQ indices.

Table with 2 columns: Symbol, Last Price. Includes various Israeli companies like Intel, Elscap, etc.

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WORLD MARKET ROUNDUP

Dollar sheds most gains; Euro markets end lackluster session up

LONDON (Reuters) - The dollar lost most of the day's gains yesterday as traders pocketed profits from a steep climb triggered by helpful remarks from finance ministers of the G7 industrialized nations over the weekend.

European equity markets ended a lackluster session with London and Paris making gains after trading that was dominated by upcoming general elections.

Most of the action was in currency markets.

Key Representative Rates

Table with 2 columns: Currency, Rate. Includes US Dollar, Sterling, Mark.

NEW YORK MARKET INDEXES

Table with 2 columns: Index, Last Price. Includes DJ Industrial, NYSE Composite, etc.

NYSE STOCKS

Table with 2 columns: Stock, Last Price. Includes various NYSE stocks.

OTHER MARKET INDEXES

Table with 2 columns: Index, Last Price. Includes FTSE 100, Nikkei, etc.

DOLLAR CROSSRATES (US)

Table with 2 columns: Currency, Rate. Includes Pound, Swiss Franc, etc.

US COMMODITIES

Table with 2 columns: Commodity, Last Price. Includes Oil, Gold, etc.

LONDON COMMODITIES

Table with 2 columns: Commodity, Last Price. Includes Oil, Gold, etc.

SPOT MARKET METALS (US)

Table with 2 columns: Metal, Last Price. Includes Gold, Silver, etc.

NEW YORK METAL FUTURES

Table with 2 columns: Metal, Last Price. Includes Gold, Silver, etc.

LONDON METAL FIXES

Table with 2 columns: Metal, Last Price. Includes Gold, Silver, etc.

PARIS

Table with 2 columns: Stock, Last Price. Includes various Paris stocks.

FRANKFURT

Table with 2 columns: Stock, Last Price. Includes various Frankfurt stocks.

Blue-chip stocks end sharply higher

NEW YORK (AP) - Stocks posted their best showing in four sessions yesterday, but the tone remained hesitant amid anxieties about whether the inflation and interest rate outlook will worsen with this week's economic reports.

On Wall Street, the Dow Jones industrial average rose 44.15 points to close at 6,783.02, despite the equivalent of a 22-point drop by Boeing, which slid after a seemingly robust profit report by the aircraft maker.

The Dow started the session with a 36-point loss, but quickly turned higher with most other broad market measures.

Most of the day's buying, however, was focused on blue-chip and other large-company shares, underscoring the uncertainty that has prevailed in the market's recent efforts to rebound.

Advancing issues outnumbered decliners by a small margin on the New York Stock Exchange, where volume was sluggish, but the advance-decline ratio was negative in the Nasdaq Stock Market, which is dominated by smaller companies.

Financial services shares were among the day's strongest groups, with American Express and J.P. Morgan helping the Dow mask Boeing's big drop.

Boeing fell sharply despite reporting a first-quarter profit three times as big as its earnings in the same period last year.

The results fell shy of some forecasts, however, and Boeing warned that its profit margin may be pressured for the rest of 1997.

After nearly two full weeks of uneasy calm on the economic front, this week's calendar is filled with pivotal reports on employment and manufacturing activity.

Notices in this feature are charged at \$15.00 per line, including VAT. Insertion every day of the month costs \$150.00 per line, including VAT, per month.

WHERE TO GO

TEL AVIV MUSEUM. Andres Serrano: The Mague. Soviet Photography from the Museum collection. Lucian Freud: Selection of works. Tzvi Hecker: Sunflower. Portraits. By a group of Israeli artists. Virtual Reality: The domestic and realistic in contemporary Israeli art. HELENA RUBINSTEIN PAVILION FOR CONTEMPORARY ART. Shlomo Ben-David and Amnon Ben-David. The Inverted Campaign. House: Weekdays 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Tue. 10 a.m.-10 p.m. Fri. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Meyshor Art Education Center. Tel. 6919155-8.

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SPORTS

in brief

Rios beats Corretja in Monte Carlo final

MONTE CARLO (AP) — Marcelo Rios took the first major title of his career by beating Alex Corretja 6-4, 6-3, 6-3 to win the Monte Carlo Open title Sunday.

Rios, who reached the Monte Carlo semifinal last year, won the fifth title of his career but it was the first ATP Tour Super Nine victory.

The Chilean will move up to No. 8 in the rankings after being No. 10 last week and seeded seventh.

Graf set for comeback in Berlin

BONN (Reuters) — Steffi Graf will return to competitive tennis at next month's German Open after an injury layoff of more than three months, the Berlin tournament's organizers said yesterday.

Eberhard Wensky, the director of the tournament which begins on May 12, said Graf had confirmed she would take part.

The German has been out of action with a knee injury since the beginning of February. She lost her status as world number one to Martina Hingis of Switzerland last month.

Barcelona: Robson to coach for another season

MADRID (AP) — Despite a flurry of recent reports to the contrary, FC Barcelona has pledged that England's Bobby Robson will remain coach of the top Spanish side for one more season.

Chairman Jose Luis Nunez told national television late Sunday. Nunez did not deny, however, that the club was still chasing Ajax coach Luis van Gaal but insisted Robson would remain until his two-season contract expires.

Robson, 64, last week expressed anger that the club had begun negotiations with Van Gaal.

Under Robson, FC Barcelona are through to the finals of the European Cup Winners Cup, the Spanish King's Cup and lie second in the Spanish first division behind arch rivals Real Madrid.

Curtain finally falls for 47-year-old Shilton

LONDON (Reuters) — Former England goalkeeper Peter Shilton's league career looked to have finally ended at the age of 47 yesterday when third division Leyton Orient said they were letting him go because he could not kick the ball far enough.

"Peter is magnificent for his age and if he could kick a ball I would keep him," Orient manager Tommy Taylor was reported as saying in the London Evening Standard.

"It sounds silly but you need a goalkeeper to kick it into your opponents' penalty box to make chances in this division."

Shilton clocked up his 1,000th English league appearance during the 10 matches he played for Orient after joining them from West Ham in November.

Italy's Di Canio is Scotland's player of the Year

GLASGOW (AP) — Italian soccer star Paolo Di Canio Sunday was named Player of the Year in Scotland by his fellow pros.

The 28-year-old former AC Milan midfielder, who signed for Celtic last year, edged Rangers' Danish forward Brian Laudrup, who took the award two seasons ago.

The last Scottish born player to win the award was Rangers goalkeeper Andy Goram, who collected it in 1993. Since then it's gone to Englishman Mark Hateley (Rangers), Laudrup, England's Paul Gascoigne (Rangers) and Di Canio.

Norman back as world No. 1

LONDON (Reuters) — Greg Norman regained his world number one ranking with his second place finish in the Spanish Open on Sunday, just one week after he lost it to American Tom Lehman.

The Australian lost the Spanish Open in a playoff against Mark James of Britain, a Ryder Cup player who climbed into the top 100 in 91st place.

The new positions released on Monday had former world number one Nick Price of Zimbabwe improving one place to third, above Steve Elkington of Australia. Masters champion Tiger Woods remained fifth.

Leander club vote to admit women

LONDON (Reuters) — Leander, the oldest rowing club in the world, have voted to drop a 179-year ban on women members in order to qualify for national lottery money.

The English club now become eligible for £1.5 million (\$2.4 million) of British lottery money.

Previously women were admitted to the clubhouse only as members' guests.

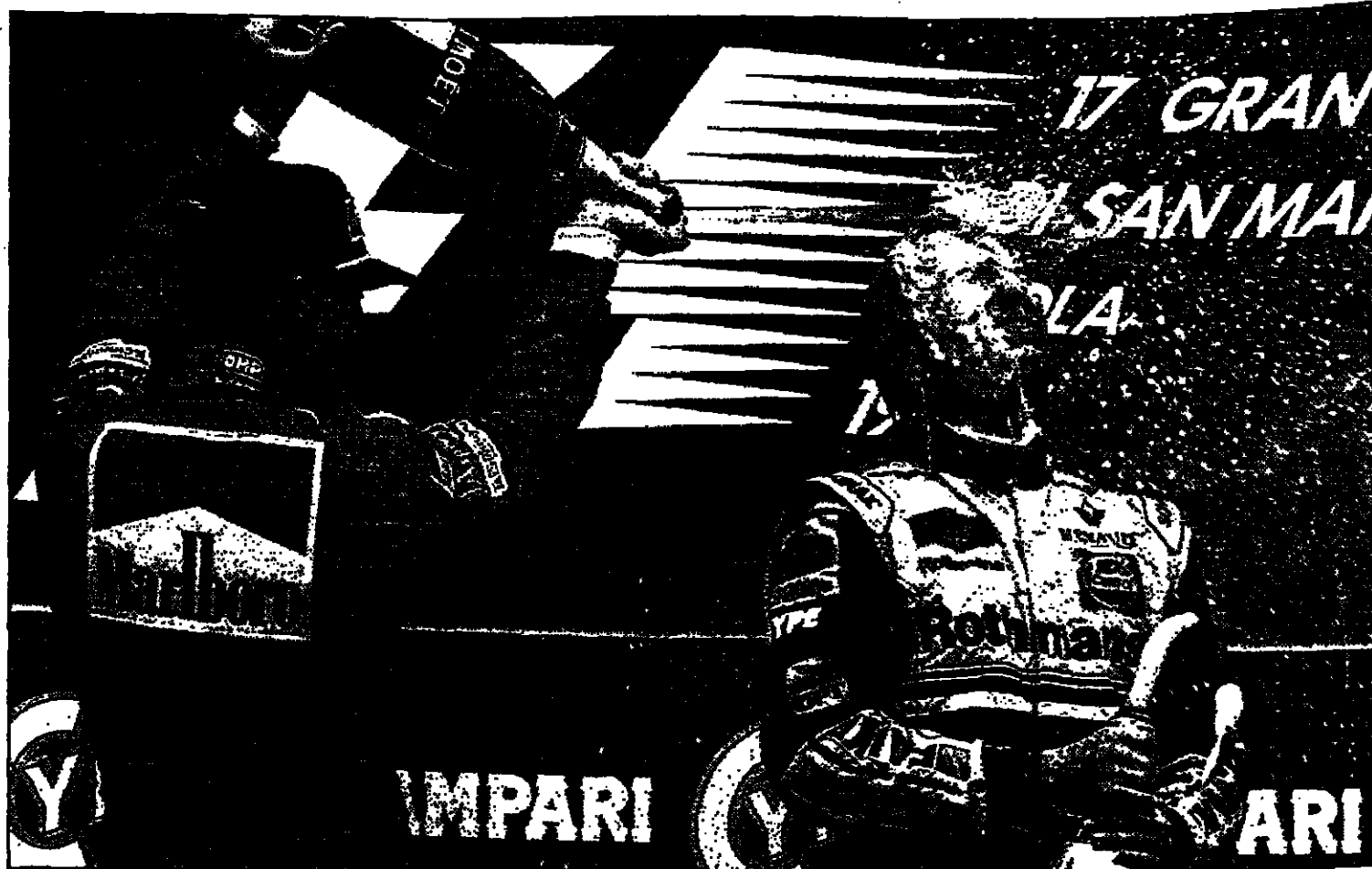
Sandberg hits record home run

CHICAGO (AP) — Ryne Sandberg of the Chicago Cubs hit his 267th home run as a second baseman Saturday, breaking Joe Morgan's record for most homers at the position.

Sandberg, who tied Morgan on Friday with his first homer of the season, passed the Hall of Famer in the second inning with a shot off Pittsburgh's Steve Cooke.

Sandberg, 37, has a total of 272 homers in his career. His first five came as a third baseman.

Morgan hit 260 home runs in the National League and six in the American League, all while playing second base.



BUBBLY SHOWER — Michael Schumacher sprays fellow-German Heinz Harald Frentzen with Champagne on the winners' podium at the San Marino Grand Prix. Frentzen won the race, Schumacher was second and Briton Eddie Irvine was third. (Reuters)

Two Germans on F-1 podium for first time in history

IMOLA, Italy (AP) — It was flag-waving time for German fans at the San Marino Grand Prix.

With their 1-2 finish, Heinz Harald Frentzen and Michael Schumacher on Sunday became the first two Germans to stand on the podium together in a Formula One Grand Prix.

"It was a great race for German spectators," said Schumacher, 28, who finished just 1.237 seconds behind Frentzen.

"I think we showed them exactly what they wanted to see, two Germans in front fighting for first place."

With a powerful start, Schumacher's Ferrari immediately overtook Frentzen on the first lap and moved into second place behind the Williams-Renault of Jacques Villeneuve, who started on the pole.

But gear trouble forced Villeneuve, winner of two GP's this season, to retire, and a quick pit stop by Frentzen helped him take over the lead ahead of Schumacher.

"I concentrated on getting ahead of Michael as quickly as possible, and then to maintain the

distance between him and me," Frentzen said of his strategy after his first pit stop.

The San Marino GP was Frentzen's first Formula One victory.

"It's fantastic, a great feeling to win," Frentzen, 29, "I am really speechless."

Frentzen, who joined the dominant Williams-Renault team this season, completed the race's 62 laps in 1 hour, 31:00.673 minutes.

Asked if he was disappointed about having gone into the pits behind one Williams (Villeneuve's) and coming out behind another (Frentzen's), Schumacher said, "There could have been two Williams in front of me."

The two-time world champion said he had expected to finish in third place, so second was a pleasant surprise.

Their nationality is not the only thing Frentzen and Schumacher have in common. As youths growing up in Germany, they competed in go-kart races together.

Their friendship soured when Schumacher

began dating Frentzen's girlfriend and eventually married her. Judging by their friendly public behavior and Schumacher's compliments on Frentzen's racing, the rift between them appears to be healed.

"He had a difficult time in the first three races, so I am pleased for him to have won," Schumacher said of Frentzen. "Of course, I would have liked to win myself, but he made no mistakes. He did a good job, so he deserves it."

Another German on the Formula One circuit is Ralf Schumacher, Michael's brother, who races for Jordan Peugeot. He sat in fourth place until mechanical problems forced him out of the race in the 17th lap.

With the victory, Frentzen earned his first points of the season and moved into a five-way tie for third place in the drivers championship with 10 points.

Canada's Villeneuve leads the standings with 20 points, followed by Michael Schumacher with 14.

Jordan's 55 points gives Bulls 2-0 lead

CHICAGO (AP) — Michael Jordan scored 55 points, including 20 of Chicago's 23 in the fourth quarter, as the Bulls took a 2-0 lead in the Eastern Conference quarterfinals by defeating the Washington Bullets 109-104 Sunday.

Jordan was 22-of-35 from the floor in breaking the 50-point mark in a playoff game for the eighth time in his career.

The Bulls also got a lift from Dennis Rodman, who grabbed seven rebounds in the second half after changing from a heavy knee brace to an elastic support.

Calbert Cheaney scored 26 points, Tracy Murray 22 and Chris Webber 21 for the Bulls, who must win at home tomorrow to avoid being swept in the best-of-5 series.

Heat 104, Magic 87

In Miami, the Miami Heat, who routed the Orlando Magic in Game 1, won another blowout in Game 2.

A 22-3 run at the start of the second period gave the Heat a 42-21 lead. They outscored Orlando 36-13 in the quarter, hitting 13 of 19 shots, and led 56-31 at halftime. The margin reached 32 points in

the third period.

Tim Hardaway had 20 points and 11 assists. P.J. Brown scored 11 consecutive Miami points in the first half and finished with 17.

Alonzo Mourning also had 17.

Penny Hardaway scored 26 points for the Magic.

Lakers 107, Trail Blazers 93

In Inglewood, California, Shaquille O'Neal, who scored 46 points in Game 1, had 30 points along with six rebounds and five assists in Game 2 as Los Angeles routed Portland.

Eddie Jones and Elden Campbell added 19 and 16 points, respectively, and Nick Van Exel added 13 points to go with nine assists.

The win gave the Lakers a 2-0 lead in the best-of-5 series, which moves to Portland for Game 3 tomorrow night. The Blazers, who have made the playoffs for 15 straight seasons, are one loss away from being eliminated in the first round for the fifth consecutive year.

Knicks 100, Hornets 93

The New York Knicks withstood 39 points from Glen Rice and held the Hornets without a field goal for

more than 8 1/2 minutes of the fourth quarter Saturday to post a 100-93 victory over Charlotte on Saturday.

It gave New York a 2-0 lead in the best-of-5 series, which moved to Charlotte for Game 3 last night.

Patrick Ewing led New York with 30 points on 15-for-21 shooting with six rebounds and three blocks.

Chris Childs added 17, including three straight jumpers late in the fourth that helped New York wrap it up.

Rockets 96, Timberwolves 84

In Houston, Charles Barkley scored 20 points and led a spurt in the final minutes as Houston pulled away to defeat Minnesota.

The Rockets led the best-of-5 series 2-0 and could sweep the series with a victory in Game 3 Tuesday at Minnesota. The Timberwolves are still looking for the first playoff win in franchise history.

The Timberwolves led for the final time 79-78 on a 3-point basket by Stephen Marbury with 5:47 to play. But a free throw and three-point play by Mario Elie gave Houston an 82-79 lead with 5:22

to go.

Barkley also had 15 rebounds and Hakeem Olajuwon finished with 18 points and 10 rebounds.

Marbury led the Timberwolves with 22 points and Tom Gugliotta had 17.

Jazz 105, Clippers 99

In Salt Lake City, Karl Malone had 39 points and John Stockton added 18 as Utah held off the Los Angeles Clippers for a commanding 2-0 first-round playoff lead.

Jeff Hornacek and Antoine Carr added 11 points apiece for the Jazz, who can sweep the best-of-5 series when it moves to Los Angeles on Monday.

Lorenzen Wright had 17 points and Darrius Martin 16 to lead the Clippers, who are now 1-5 vs. Utah this season and lost for the 18th straight in Salt Lake City.

NBA playoffs results:

Saturday: Houston 96, Minnesota 84, Houston leads series 2-0; New York 100, Charlotte 93, New York leads series 2-0; Utah 105, L.A. Clippers 99, Utah leads series 2-0.

Sunday: Miami 104, Orlando 87, Miami leads series 2-0; L.A. Lakers 107, Portland 93, L.A. leads series 2-0; Philadelphia 109, Washington 104, Chicago leads series 2-0; Detroit 93, Atlanta 88, series tied 1-1; Seattle 122, Phoenix 78, series tied 1-1.

Lemieux's career comes to an end

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Mario Lemieux's great career came to an end Saturday night amid thunderous ovations from Philadelphia fans as the Flyers eliminated his Pittsburgh Penguins from the playoffs and sent the three-time NHL MVP into retirement.

Lemieux, a six-time scoring champion, had a goal and assist in his final NHL game.

The Flyers, behind two short-handed goals from Rod Brind'Amour, beat the Penguins 6-3 to take the series 4-1.

Lemieux, 31, won two Stanley Cups and this year collected his sixth NHL scoring title with 122 points. After coming back from Hodgkin's disease and back injuries, the Penguins captain said on April 5 he would retire once the season ended.

Red Wings 3, Blues 1

In St. Louis the Detroit Red Wings wrapped up their first-round playoff series in six games on Sunday, getting power-play goals from Viacheslav Kozlov and Brendan Shanahan in a 3-1 victory over the St. Louis Blues.

While the Red Wings continue their quest for their first Stanley Cup since 1955, the Blues haven't made it past the second round since 1986.

Stars 3, Oilers 2

In Edmonton, Alberta, Mike Modano scored at 14:42 of the third period after running the Edmonton Oilers' defense ragged to lift the Dallas Stars to a 3-2 victory Sunday, forcing a seventh game of their NHL Western Conference playoff series.

With each team playing a man short, Modano slipped the puck

from Edmonton defenseman Luke Richardson in the Oilers' zone and skated circles around his opponents as he revved up.

The speedy center skated up to the blue line and tore up the middle of the ice, tipping a shot that deflected off Oilers' center Doug Weight's stick and past goalie Curtis Joseph for his fourth goal of the series.

The Oilers, who had hoped to eliminate the highly favored Stars on home ice, now must play Game 7 in Dallas tonight.

NHL playoffs results:

Saturday: New Jersey 4, Montreal 6, New Jersey wins series 4-1; Philadelphia 6, Pittsburgh 3, Philadelphia wins series 4-1; Colorado 6, Chicago 3, Colorado wins series 4-2.

Sunday: Dallas 3, Edmonton 2, series tied 2-2; Detroit 3, St. Louis 1, Detroit wins series 4-2; Anaheim 3, Phoenix 2, OT, series tied 3-3; Buffalo 3, Ottawa 0, series tied 3-3.

Snooker world championship moves into final stages

SHEFFIELD (AP) — After an opening week which saw the fastest-ever maximum 147 break and snooker legend Steve Davis

cruelly humbled, the snooker World Championships enter their final stages at Sheffield's Crucible Theatre.

Some surprise names feature in the second week as major stars have gone spinning out of the sport's premier event.

Davis was walloped 13-3 by Ireland's Ken Doherty — with a

session to spare — and joined Jimmy White, Ronnie O'Sullivan,

last year's runner-up Peter Ebdon, and world No. 11 Dave Harold on the Sheffield scrapheap.

For Davis, a six-time world champion, this was his worst-ever defeat at the Crucible in this northern English city.

Doherty now faces Scotland's world No.2 John Higgins or Dominic Dale, still locked in combat, for a place in the semifinals where he would play either Lee

Walker or Alain Robidoux.

O'Sullivan collected a £147,000 (\$235,000) for his five minutes 20 seconds maximum break last week during his first-round defeat of Mick Price.

It was only the fourth 147 in the history of the event. In the next round O'Sullivan, a favorite for the title, fell to Welshman Darren Morgan.

Morgan now faces a mountainous task. He must overcome defending champion Stephen

Rosenthal out of side to face Cyprus

By ORI LEWIS

Ronnie Rosenthal will miss Israel's World Cup qualifier against Cyprus tomorrow after picking up a leg injury during training earlier in the day.

The diagnosis by Dr. Marc Rosnowsky yesterday was that the injury will not heal in time for the kickoff at 18:00 tomorrow.

Alon Hazan now looks most likely to take his place in the starting lineup in place of Rosenthal.

The injury to Rosenthal appears to have presented national team coach Shlomo Scharf with his 11 starters for the crucial European group 5 qualifier with the Cypriots, who arrived late last night, although Hazan's place could still go to Eyal Berkowitz.

Scharf's final decision is expected to be known this afternoon after Israel complete all their training preparations.

The tentative starting lineup is Rafi Cohen; David Amisalem, Amir Shelah, Arik Bannado, Felix Halfon; Tal Bania (captain), Alon Hazan, Avi Nimni, Itzik Zohar, Haim Revivo, Eli Ohana.

The 20-man Israel squad: Goalkeepers: Rafi Cohen (Hapoel Haifa), Itzik Karmelin (Bnei Yehuda).

Defenders: Assi Domb (Bnei Yehuda), David Amisalem (Bnei Yehuda), Amir Shelah (Maccabi Tel Aviv), Moshe Giam (Maccabi Haifa), Felix Halfon (Hapoel Tel Aviv), Arik Bannado (Maccabi Haifa).

Midfielders: Ran Ben-Shimon (Hapoel Haifa), Alon Harazi (Maccabi Haifa), Yossi Abukasis (Bnei Yehuda), Eyal Berkowitz (Southampton), Haim Revivo (Celta Vigo), Itzik Zohar (Bnei Yehuda), Alon Hazan (Maccabi Haifa), Nir Klingberg (Maccabi Tel Aviv), Tal Bania (Hapoel Haifa), captain, Avi Nimni (Maccabi Tel Aviv).

Forwards: Eli Ohana (Bnei Yehuda), Alon Mizrahi (Bnei Yehuda).

Israel juniors lose 3-0 to Germany

By ORI LEWIS

Israel's national junior (under-16) side were beaten 3-0 by Germany in the opening match of the European Championship finals in Hannover yesterday.

A crowd of some 50,000 was on hand to see the home team give the Israelis "a lesson in football" according to coach Benny Tabak, who spoke on Israel Radio yesterday evening.

The Israelis held on for the first half but then collapsed as they conceded three goals in the second period. In order to qualify for the next stage the Israelis must win their two remaining group matches against Northern Ireland tomorrow and then Switzerland.

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

National League

East Division	W	L	Pct.	GB
Atlanta	17	5	.773	-
Florida	13	9	.591	4
Montreal	11	10	.524	6
New York	9	14	.481	8
Philadelphia	7	14	.333	9
Central Division	W	L	Pct.	GB
Houston	14	9	.608	-
Pittsburgh	11	11	.500	2 1/2
St. Louis	8	14	.364	5 1/2
Cincinnati	7	15	.318	6 1/2
Chicago	4	18	.182	9 1/2
West Division	W	L	Pct.	GB
San Francisco	16	5	.762	-
Colorado	15	6	.714	1
Los Angeles	11	10	.524	5
San Diego	8	12	.429	7

American League

East Division	W	L	Pct.	GB
Baltimore	14	11	.562	3
Boston	12	11	.520	3 1/2
New York	12	12	.500	3 1/2
Toronto	10	11	.476	4
Detroit	10	15	.400	6
Central Division	W	L	Pct.	GB
Minnesota	10	10	.500	-
Cleveland	11	12	.478	1 1/2
Kansas City	11	11	.476	1 1/2
Chicago	11	13	.458	1 1/2
St. Louis	7	16	.304	4 1/2
West Division	W	L	Pct.	GB
Seattle	15	9	.625	-
Texas	12	8	.619	1 1/2
Oakland	12	12	.500	3
Anaheim	11	11	.500	3

Saturday's NL games: Cincinnati 10, Philadelphia 2; Montreal 8, N.Y. Mets 1; Colorado 4, St. Louis 2; Chicago Cubs 7, Pittsburgh 6; Atlanta 3, San Diego 2, 10 innings; San Francisco 2, Houston 0; Florida 8, Los Angeles 3.

Sunday's NL games: Atlanta 2, San Diego 5, 4 1/2 innings; N.Y. Mets 5, Colorado 2, 10 innings; St. Louis 6, San Francisco 3, Houston 2; Florida 4, Los Angeles 3.

Saturday's AL games: Toronto 4, Los Angeles 3; Baltimore 14, Boston 5; N.Y. Yankees 10, Chicago White Sox 2; Oakland 7, Kansas City 6, 11 innings; Milwaukee 9, Cleveland 8; Texas 6, Minnesota 1; Detroit 2, Anaheim 0.

Sunday's AL games: Seattle 2, Toronto 1; Boston 13, Baltimore 7; N.Y. Yankees 6, Chicago White Sox 1; Milwaukee 6, Cleveland 5; Texas 7, Minnesota 3; Kansas City 7, Oakland 1; Anaheim 6, Detroit 5.

Hendry for a place in the semifinals, and Hendry holds a 27-match unbeaten run at the Crucible stretching back to the 1991 quarterfinals.

The quarterfinal in Hendry's top half of the draw will be between the winner of Stephen Lee or James Wattana and Anthony Hamilton or John Parrott.

Sports Editor: Joseph Holzman

and Ori Lewis

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The Jerusalem Post
Rosenthal
out of side
to face
Cyprus

By ORI LEWIS
Rosenthal will miss the World Cup qualification match against Cyprus tomorrow after suffering a leg injury during training earlier in the day. The injury was diagnosed by Dr. Meir Shalev yesterday as a stress fracture. Rosenthal will not play in the match, which is scheduled to kick off at 18:00.

Hazzan now looks more like a place in place of a place. The injury to Rosenthal is to have presented a problem for the national team. The coach Shimon Schuster has 11 starters for the match, but only 10 players are available. The team is expected to arrive in Cyprus on Friday night, although Hazzan could still go to Egypt for his final decision. The team is expected to arrive in Cyprus on Friday night, although Hazzan could still go to Egypt for his final decision.

rael juniors lose
-0 to Germany
By ORI LEWIS

The national junior football team were beaten 5-0 by Germany in the opening match of the European Championship. The team was expected to perform well, but they were out of sync from the start. The match was held in Germany, and the national team was expected to perform well, but they were out of sync from the start.

CRITIC'S CHOICE

CIRCUS

HELEN KAYE

Beijing's limber young acrobats will thrill you as the Beijing State Circus continues its local tour with three performances at the Ra'anana municipal auditorium today at 11 a.m., 5 and 7:30 p.m.

CLASSICAL MUSIC

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

Yoav Talmi leads the Israel Symphony Orchestra in Rachmaninoff's Second Symphony while the doyenne of Israeli pianists, Pinna Saltzman, performs one of her signature works, Chopin's First Piano Concerto, tonight and tomorrow (8:30) at the Tel Aviv Performing Arts Center. Each evening at 7 on the side stage of the TAPAC orchestra musicians perform chamber music by Chopin and Rachmaninoff.

TELEVISION

ELANA CHIPMAN

Half is an autobiographical documentary by its producer, Dan Tal, who goes to Germany with his father, who was born a German Christian, at the end of WWII. When he discovered the horror of the war, he converted to Judaism and came to Israel, where he converted and married the daughter of Holocaust survivors. His son Dan was called "a half" by his playmates: half Jewish, half German. The film also explores father-son relations, Israeli-German relations and cultural differences. Channel 1, at 10 p.m.

FILM

ADINA HOFFMAN

*** THE DEVIL'S OWN - The torrent of negative advance publicity for Alan J. Pakula's new film was unwarranted. The movie's far from



Yoav Talmi conducts the Israel Symphony Orchestra Rishon Lezion tonight and tomorrow.

brilliant, but it's also far from bad, more compelling than the vast majority of Hollywood movies that pass uncriticized and unmentioned in the gossip columns. Brad Pitt and Harrison Ford star as a ruthless IRA terrorist and trusting New York cop who form a strong bond when the younger man is taken in by the policeman as a sort of son surrogate. The film was plainly conceived as a vehicle for Pitt, whose soubunny presence is almost as strong as his brogue is here, but the movie's slow-thumping heart and ticking mind belong to Ford, whose performance is so understated and calmly sinister, it barely registers as acting at all. Ford dominates the screen more honestly and simply than almost any screen actor around, without a trace of sham or vanity. He's unflappably real. (English dialogue, Hebrew subtitles. Children under 17 not admitted without an adult).

TV

CHANNEL 1

6:30 News flash
6:31 New in Arabic
6:45 Exercise Time
7:00 Good Morning Israel
18:00 Super Sports
18:30 Dog House
18:30 News headlines
18:30 The Office
18:30 Super Stars of Action
18:30 Encounter
18:30 The Nature of Things
18:30 News in English
18:30 Sunday River
18:30 Mission Impossible
18:30 Larry King
18:30 Family Channel
18:30 Beakman's World
18:30 Perfect Storm
18:30 Saved by the Bell
18:30 Showbiz
18:30 World News Tonight (Arabic)
18:30 Sliders
18:30 Far and Away
18:30 News
18:30 Soccer
18:30 News
00:00 DailyVerse

CHANNEL 2

6:15 Today's Programs
6:30 Little Rosie
7:00 Coffee with Tel-Aviv
8:00 Rubik
10:00 Pulp Fiction
11:00 Bakersfield PD
11:30 Evening Show
12:00 Mosaic
13:00 El and Julie
13:30 Half Men
14:00 Kids of Degraded Street
15:00 News
15:00 Aladdin
16:00 The Bold and the Beautiful
17:00 News magazine
17:00 Everything's Gonna Be Alright
18:00 Thirty something
18:00 Zohar Argov
20:00 News
20:00 Ramat Aviv
20:00 Gimmie
21:15 Fact
22:00 Gov Night
22:15 The X-Files
00:00 News
00:05 X-Files cont.
00:18 Night Meeting
1:00 On the Edge of the Shell

CHANNEL 3

6:30 News flash
6:31 New in Arabic
6:45 Exercise Time
7:00 Good Morning Israel
18:00 Super Sports
18:30 Dog House
18:30 News headlines
18:30 The Office
18:30 Super Stars of Action
18:30 Encounter
18:30 The Nature of Things
18:30 News in English
18:30 Sunday River
18:30 Mission Impossible
18:30 Larry King
18:30 Family Channel
18:30 Beakman's World
18:30 Perfect Storm
18:30 Saved by the Bell
18:30 Showbiz
18:30 World News Tonight (Arabic)
18:30 Sliders
18:30 Far and Away
18:30 News
18:30 Soccer
18:30 News
00:00 DailyVerse

CHANNEL 4

6:30 News flash
6:31 New in Arabic
6:45 Exercise Time
7:00 Good Morning Israel
18:00 Super Sports
18:30 Dog House
18:30 News headlines
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CHANNEL 5

6:30 News flash
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TV

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CHANNEL 2

6:15 Today's Programs
6:30 Little Rosie
7:00 Coffee with Tel-Aviv
8:00 Rubik
10:00 Pulp Fiction
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12:00 Mosaic
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20:00 Ramat Aviv
20:00 Gimmie
21:15 Fact
22:00 Gov Night
22:15 The X-Files
00:00 News
00:05 X-Files cont.
00:18 Night Meeting
1:00 On the Edge of the Shell

CHANNEL 3

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00:00 DailyVerse

PRIME TIME TV

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
19:30 News flash Muppets Tonight	News	Sunset Beach	New in the Cinema No One Could Protect Her	Married with Children Roseanne	Future Quest Peak Performance	Eight On Eight Cosby Show	Triumph of the Nerds National Geographic Explorer
20:00 News	Ramat Aviv Gimmel	Beverly Hills 90210	Suddenly Susan	A Different World Wonderful World Life of Lani Riekenstahl	21:00 The Single Guy	22:00 Love Story with Yossi Sivan Friends	23:00 Soccer

Horrible Life of Lani Riekenstahl (German, 1993) - Documentary finds Riekenstahl, at 90, trying to justify her career. (180 mins.)
11:30 An Element of Truth (1995) (pt)
12:00 New in the Cinema
12:10 Seizing Stars
12:20 No Good Deed
12:30 Until You Move the Lawn (1994) (pt)
12:40 Playing Dead
12:50 The Double O Kid (1992) - a young star takes on a terrorist during a CIA summer camp.
13:00 Carnie (1994) - an elderly violinist befriends a composer.
13:10 Jessica Tandy
13:20 The Band
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PM won't sign Deri reprieve petition

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN and SARAH HONIG

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu does not intend to sign the petition calling on the attorney-general to reconsider the indictment of Shas leader MK Aryeh Deri.

The reason given by Netanyahu, who spoke in a television interview Sunday night, was that "the prime minister does not sign petitions." Earlier that day, the prime minister said he had not yet decided whether to sign the petition and would make up his mind when he received it.

Netanyahu noted the petition "seems a little strange to me, but it is clear to me that there is a natural feeling of people that something is wrong." He added: "I can understand Deri's frustration and that of his supporters, because a man is innocent until proven guilty." Netanyahu said he is convinced Deri will prove his innocence.

The prime minister denied any intention of firing Justice Minister Tsahi

Hanegbi or moving him to another portfolio due to his conduct in the Bar-On Affair as established by the report of Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein and State Attorney Edna Arbel. Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky, who was interviewed last weekend, said Netanyahu had promised him to remove Hanegbi and to make several other changes in the cabinet.

Commenting on the critical statements made by Sharansky and other ministers concerning the prime minister and the cabinet, Netanyahu said in holiday media interviews that he had spoken to Sharansky, and the latter's comments had been "taken out of context."

Sharansky said in a Yediot Aharanot interview: "Netanyahu has not proved he can lead a government. All the critical decisions from the peace process to economic issues were taken in a strange way. The appointment of the attorney-general was a functional failure." Sharansky also described the cabinet as "a circus."

Netanyahu said in weekend interviews with radio and television that he plans to add professional and experienced people to the prime minister's office to improve its functioning, as part of the "stocktaking" he promised. He admitted there are many things to be mended in the government and said he intends to mend them.

Meanwhile, after Labor Party leader Shimon Peres' and leadership candidate Ehud Barak called separately on Shas mentor Rabbi Ovadia Yosef last weekend, the party sent nine of its 71-member Young Guard executive to visit Deri on Sunday. "We came to strengthen you Aryeh and to tell you that we share your feeling that you are being wronged," said Yoram Marciano.

Roni Na'aman said: "You are a great man, Aryeh. You are made of the stuff which great leaders are made of. You are the sort suited to lead the country and they are trying to bring you down. We are impressed with your talent and wisdom

and we wish you success. We know you are being discriminated against."

Deri told Labor's Young Guard he has "no need for demonstrations of support or for petitions. I have not initiated any of these. Anyone who says I did is speaking nonsense. At the same time, let's not be ostriches who bury our heads in the sand and pretend that there is no problem here, that there is perfect equality here and that everyone is treated fairly and according to the same standards and criteria."

The Shas leader warned that "there is a great discontent and rumblings of uprising among a considerable segment of the public. The way things are now, I won't be surprised if it will all lead to an explosion."

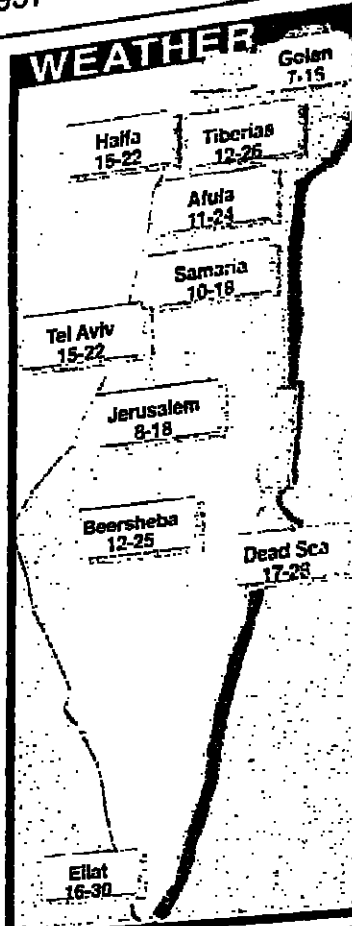
Leah Rabin, widow of late prime minister Yitzhak Rabin, traveled to Jerusalem on Sunday to sign a petition calling for the establishment of a state inquiry to investigate the Bar-On Affair. "It is imperative that we raise our voices in protest when this prime minister attempts

to turn the page and return to business as usual," she said.

Rabin noted that her husband had not run for re-election in 1977 after "a formal problem" with the couple's illegal dollar account in the US. She said Netanyahu "should long ago have drawn the only honorable conclusions and resigned his office, because this case is by far more severe."

A source close to Netanyahu condemned "the repeated misleading attempt to compare the Bar-On Affair to the Rabbin's dollar account. In the dollar account case, there was a clear uncontested violation of the law. It was black on white and the sum involved in those days was not paltry."

"In the Bar-On Affair, there is nothing like unequivocal guilt. Not only was Netanyahu not convicted, but there was no basis to even charge him and he maintains total innocence of any wrongdoing. No one has proven that he is not innocent," the source said.



Forecast: Partly cloudy, slight rise in temperatures.

AROUND THE WORLD

	LOW	HIGH	WIND
Amsterdam	10	15	10-15
Buenos Aires	14	20	10-15
Chicago	10	15	10-15
Copenhagen	10	15	10-15
Frankfurt	10	15	10-15
Geneva	10	15	10-15
Helsinki	10	15	10-15
Hong Kong	24	30	10-15
Jerusalem	8	18	10-15
London	10	15	10-15
Los Angeles	10	15	10-15
Madrid	10	15	10-15
Moscow	10	15	10-15
New York	10	15	10-15
Paris	10	15	10-15
Rome	10	15	10-15
Stockholm	10	15	10-15
Sydney	10	15	10-15
Tel Aviv	10	15	10-15
Toronto	10	15	10-15
Vienna	10	15	10-15
Zurich	10	15	10-15

Netanyahu insists A-G's Bar-On report clears him

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Sunday that the State Attorney's report on the Bar-On Affair clears him of any wrongdoing and all the accusations made against him were unfounded and unproved.

For the first time since the report was released 10 days ago, the prime minister agreed on Sunday to answer journalists' questions. He accused left-wing elements and the media of trying to undermine Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein's decision not to indict him, and of demanding a state commission of inquiry for political reasons.

Israel Radio's Arye Golan read out parts of the report questioning Netanyahu's conduct in the affair and leaving doubts and "hovering shadows" as to his real motive in appointing Bar-On. He also asked about the report's conclusions about the pressure exerted by MK Aryeh Deri on Netanyahu to appoint Bar-On, indicating that Shas's position on the Hebron issue might be connected to the appointment.

"All these questions arouse suspicion that the main motive for the prime minister's desire to appoint Bar-On lies in a secret reason which the prime minister did not reveal," the report said.

Netanyahu responded by saying "the bottom line is that I

committed no transgression and the attorney-general confirms it."

In an interview with Army Radio, interviewer Yael Dan questioned Netanyahu's statement that the report cleared him completely, noting that Rubinstein did not say he did nothing wrong, "he only stated it was hard to prove."

"Apparently, it cannot be proved that you did not commit a transgression," she added, at a later stage of the interview.

Netanyahu said, "I know exactly what I did and what I didn't do, and I didn't commit a single offense from all the things that I was said to have done."

Commenting on the violent attacks on journalists following Netanyahu's verbal attack on the media last Sunday, after the report was issued, the prime minister told Israel Radio "there is a clear line between criticism and violent acts, that's the essence of the rule of law. I'm calling and warning that nobody dare use violence against any journalist, it's simply forbidden."

Netanyahu added that "with all the harsh criticism I have for some journalists, I also have deep appreciation for others who dealt with the affair, and came from the left wing, and courageously stood up against the murky wave intended to topple the government."

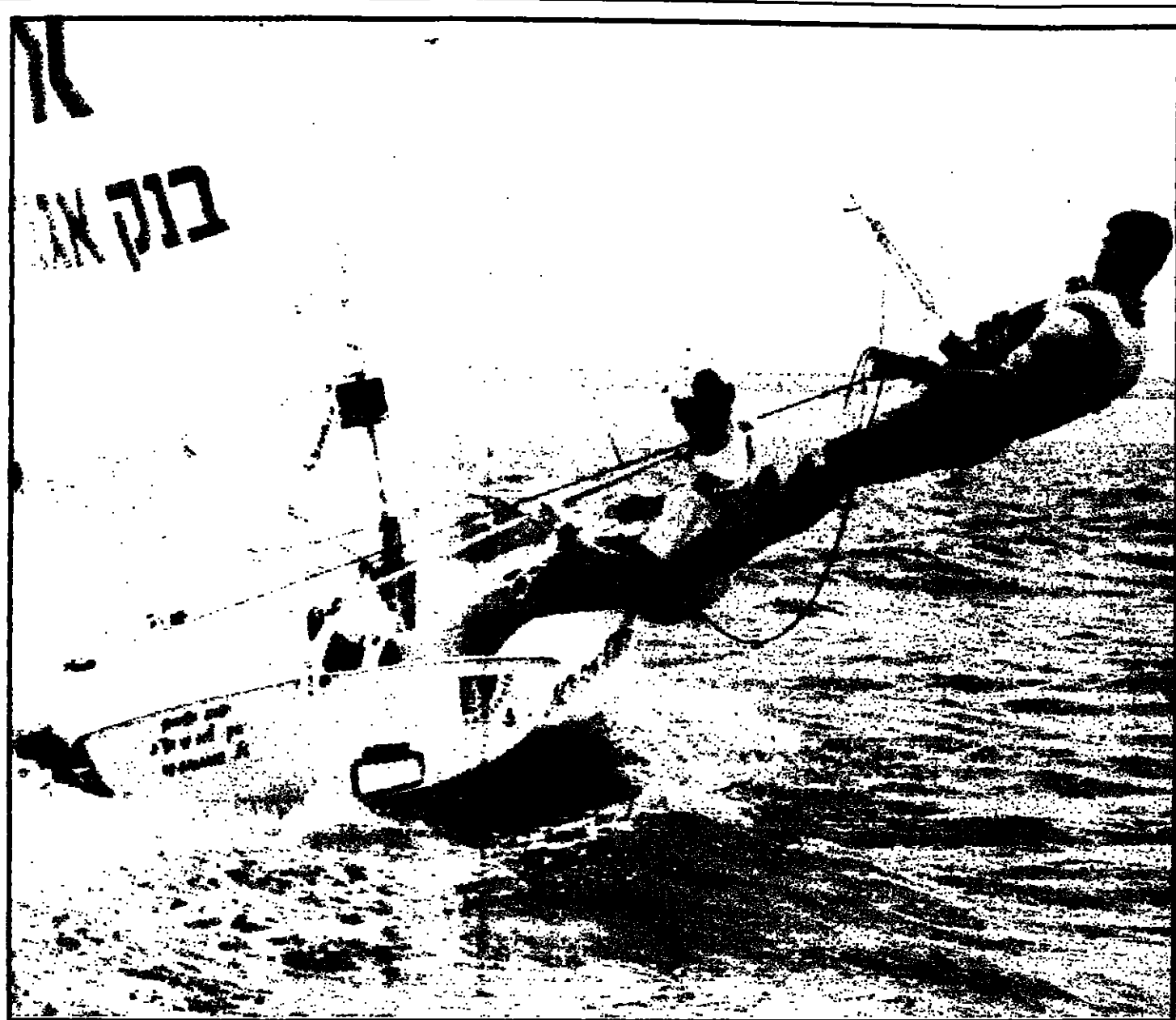
Winning cards

In Sunday's Chance draw, the lucky cards were the 8 of spades, king of hearts, queen of diamonds, and king of clubs.

US stamp honors Wallenberg

The US Postal Service unveiled a stamp on Friday honoring Raoul Wallenberg, a Swedish diplomat who saved thousands of Hungarian Jews from the Nazis during World War II.

In a ceremony at the Holocaust Memorial Museum, Rep. Tom Lantos and Postal Service Governor S. David Fineman removed the blue cloth covering the stamp design, a portrait of Wallenberg on the telephone with a background of Holocaust survivors over his shoulder. (AP)



A delicate balance

A teammate stretches out from his boat's gunwale in a trapeze rig to help its balance, as competitors in the 420-class of the National Youth Sailing Championships race downwind off Tel Aviv on Sunday.

US orders ex-Auschwitz guard deported

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - A federal court ordered a 75-year-old Michigan man deported for serving as a guard at Nazi prison camps, the Justice Department said yesterday.

Chief US Immigration Judge Michael Creppy found that Ferdinand Hammer, who lives in Sterling Heights, Michigan, participated in persecuting people at Auschwitz in Nazi-occupied Poland and at Sachsenhausen outside Berlin in 1944 and 1945.

He also found that Hammer guarded prisoners on transports between the two camps in 1945, when the Nazis left Auschwitz ahead of the arrival of Soviet troops. Captured German documents showed that Hammer was a member of the Waffen SS, judged a criminal organization at the Nuremberg trials after World War II.

Last May, a US District Court stripped Hammer of his US citizenship on grounds that the retired foundry supervisor lied about his role in the war.

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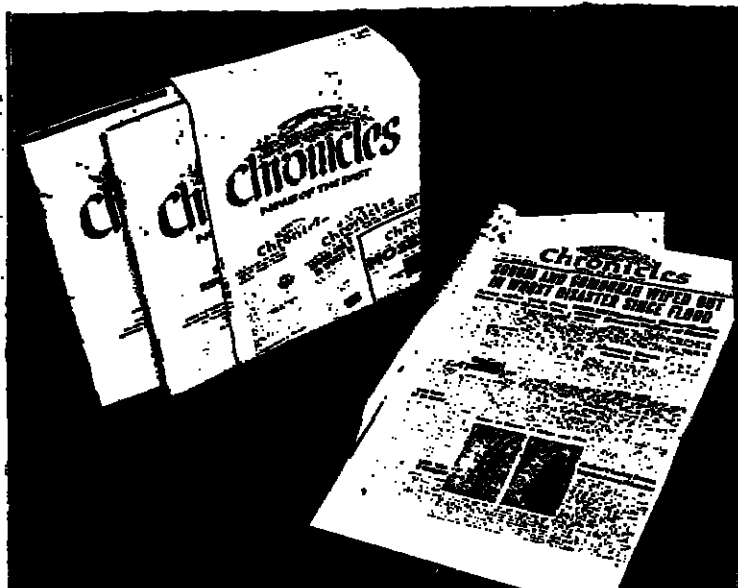
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